# The importation, release, establishment, spread, and early impact on prey animals of the red fox *Vulpes vulpes* in Victoria and adjoining parts of south-eastern Australia

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## ABSTRACT

Based on new evidence (700 records), this paper provides a detailed account of the importation, release, occurrence, establishment, spread, and early impact on prey animals of the red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*, in Victoria and adjacent parts of south-eastern Australia. Foxes were imported to Victoria on at least nine occasions between 1845 and 1879, mainly for sporting purposes, and were released directly into the wild on at least five occasions between 1845 and 1873. Foxes may also have been bred in captivity, as some were exhibited at agricultural shows in 1869 and 1872. Releases in 1845 near Geelong and in about 1868 and 1871 near Ballarat did not persist. The prevalence of guns in the rural community, together with a culture of shooting animals for sport, and the broadscale deployment of poison to kill dingoes, feral dogs, and rabbits, apparently conspired to restrict the rapid establishment and spread of foxes across Victoria before 1880. The main point of successful establishment was in Werribee district, possibly in about 1874 (but definitely by 1878), and probably by the wealthy Chirnside family of Werribee Park. Foxes became conspicuously numerous between Geelong and Melbourne in 1878-79 and then dispersed. From 1882 foxes were often unbagged at hunt club meets, and some of these were able to elude the hounds of the pack as they gave chase. The increased availability of rabbits and hares, resulting from their earlier release and subsequent ineffectual control mechanisms, presumably favoured the survival and spread of foxes. Foxes were also translocated by some crop growers in an effort to combat rabbits and hares, though this is poorly documented. The dense forests of Gippsland impeded colonisation, so that Victoria was probably not entirely colonised until about 1900. Foxes reached the Adelaide district of South Australia in 1905 and the Queensland/New South Wales border in 1907. Unintended consequences of the introduction of foxes were soon observed: killing of lambs and poultry by 1868; native birds by 1879; and native mammals by c. 1900.

Key words: invasive species; introduced species; colonisation; naturalisation

## Introduction

The fox *(Vulpes vulpes)*, unlike the dog *(Canis familiaris)* and the cat *(Felis catus)*, was not brought to Australia as a companion animal. The fox is also too large an animal to have been introduced accidentally, as were rats and mice. Foxes were brought to Australia for the same reason that rabbits *(Oryctolagus cuniculus)*, hares *(Lepus capensis)*, deer, pheasants, partridges, quail and other game were: for sporting purposes. Anon. (1902) wrote that a 'few years ago a thoughtless man in Victoria introduced and liberated some English foxes, for the purpose of hunting, in place of riding to hounds after a piece of oily rag.' Peake (1905) attributed the introduction to Messrs Chirnside of Werribee Park, Victoria, dated it to 'some thirty or forty years ago' [i.e. 1865-75], and localised it to the plains between Melbourne and Geelong. According to Froggatt (1913), foxes were introduced 'it is said, about 1868, by some members of a Hunt Club, for the purpose of indulging in the noble sport of fox-hunting. They were turned out in Southern Victoria, about the district of Geelong or Colac; but as no one, now, wishes to claim the honour of the introduction of the fox into Australia, it is very difficult to get any accurate records on the subject. Like the rabbit, it was some years before the fox became acclimatised, and established itself under the new conditions of life; for it was nearly twenty years later [c. 1888], that foxes were first noticed on the southern border of New South Wales.' Froggatt (1917) remarked that in southern Victoria 'it [had] only infested the coastal districts for a number of years'. Later recollections claimed that a vixen and 'not long afterwards' a mate escaped from Chirnside's at Werribee in the late 1850s or early 1860s (Hine 1934), and that the first foxes were liberated by T. Chirnside at Werribee in the 1870s (Munro 1939).

Although the introduction of the fox into Australia was researched comprehensively by Rolls (1969), his account is inconclusive on some points and inadequately referenced. Rolls queried whether the first record of a fox (in 1845) did actually refer to this species, asserted that huntsmen (mounted men accompanied by hounds) and not Acclimatisation Societies first imported foxes, noted the first record of its importation (1868) and chase by the hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club (1868), suggested that the first successful releases occurred in the early 1870s near Ballarat and Point Cook, and noted that the first records of foxes in the wild were at Laverton (1878), Corio Bay (1880) and Hexham (1880). New information presented in this paper demonstrates that some of these claims are incorrect, misleading or require qualification. In addition, comments by Rolls (1969: 313) on fox hunting are partisan and moralising in tone.

The zoologist Kinghorn (1928: 213) incorrectly stated that the fox was first introduced into Australia by members of the 'Victorian Hunt Club' in 1868, and that later numbers of them were liberated in southern Victoria 'between Geelong and Colac'. The historian Kiddle (1961: 321) wrote vaguely that foxes were regarded as vermin in the Western district of Victoria by the 1870s, and that Werribee Park was a centre for fox hunting in 1881 (Kiddle 1961: 349). Ronald (1978: 54) stated that two foxes landed in 1861 were 'said to have been released at Point Cooke, but moved on to Laverton, where within ten years there were sufficient to support foxes for hunting.' None of these claims appears to be correct. A map published by Menkhorst (1995) shows the distribution of 1028 raster records of the fox in Victoria, but only one of these is dated before 1900.

Rolls (1969) also overestimated the rapidity of the spread of foxes, referring to foxes present in 1888 along the Coorong in South Australia. The research reported here instead indicates that foxes did not establish in the mallee parts of western Victoria until 1892, even though they were first recorded in south-east South Australia in c. 1881 (Feuerheerdt 1901). Therefore the early occurrence of foxes in South Australia appears to be independent of the distribution of foxes in Victoria prior to c. 1893. A map showing the spread of the fox repeats this misinterpretation (Jarman 1986; this map was also reproduced in Saunders *et al*. 1995). These discrepancies invite clarification of the terms 'imported', 'released', 'introduced', 'established' and 'colonised' and a more considered usage and appreciation of the nuances inherent in these verbs.

The objectives of this paper are to:

- Discover, by means of systematic search, early records of the fox in Victoria, south-east South Australia, and New South Wales additional to those supplied by Rolls (1969)
- Document and consolidate these records, and then map the inferred spread of the fox in Victoria
- Distinguish carefully the various phases involved in colonisation by the fox in Victoria, and consider why the fox existed precariously in Victoria for several decades
- Evaluate the interplay of factors that decisively promoted the establishment of the fox in Victoria
- Assess the early impact of the fox on farm animals and native fauna, up to the 1930s
- Use the historical record to clarify the current status of the fox in Tasmania.

## Methods

Sources of information accessed for this study are: *Port Phillip Gazette*, *The Port Phillip Herald* (later, *The Herald*), *The Argus*, and *The Australasian* newspapers, all published in Melbourne; *The Camperdown Chronicle* (rural Victoria); *The Sydney Morning Herald*; *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane); *The Advertiser* (Adelaide); *The Times* (London); the journal *Victorian Naturalist*; the *Victoria Government Gazette* (1880-1899); and the *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* (1879-1890).

The *Port Phillip Herald* and *Camperdown Chronicle* were searched online for the years 1840-1900 and 1877-1886 respectively, using the keyword foxes. Indexes of news items in *The Argus* for the years 1846-59 (Freely 1976, 1987), 1860-69 (Suter 1999) and 1910-1914 were consulted for references to foxes and hunting. These, together with reports of hunting meets from May to October 1870-79, published on Mondays in *The Argus*, were also retrieved and read. Subsequent to this effort, all issues of *The Argus* became available online in 2009, and I then searched these using the keyword foxes. For *The Australasian*, particular attention was given to the Hunting column in The Sportsman section, rural affairs constituting The Yeoman section, and The Naturalist column. All issues of this weekly newspaper from 1866 to 1901 inclusive were examined, building on Rolls' (1969) perusal of issues published from 1864 to 1880. *The Sydney Morning Herald* was searched online for records of foxes during 1831-1954. *The Times* (London) was searched online for records of foxes, acclimatisation and Edward Wilson (the co-proprietor of *The Argus* and zealous promoter of acclimatisation in Victoria) relating to Victoria for the period 1840-79. The *New South Wales Government Gazette* (1894-98), by providing information on foxes presented for bounties in southern New South Wales, confirmed when foxes had become established in northern Victoria. Other sources that were perused systematically were Parliamentary documents for New South Wales and South Australia, especially Parliamentary Debates and Parliamentary Papers. Stock and Brands Branch Annual Reports (New South Wales) were especially useful.

A by product of research for my previous papers (Abbott 2002, 2008a, 2008b) was that many historical and scientific papers and books relating to Victoria were reviewed. This material provided important background and context, as well as 'null' records of the fox in Victoria. In this paper, information from social history and the history of science is cited where appropriate.

The geographical focus of this paper is south-eastern Australia, defined here as east and south of a line joining Adelaide, Broken Hill, Bourke, Moree and Tenterfield. Most attention is given to Victoria, and records from South Australia and New South Wales are usually of the first report and/or first bounty report for a district. These records of, and relevant comments about, the fox were organised chronologically (Table 1). Records of occurrence for Victoria, southern New South Wales, and south-east South Australia were mapped (Fig. 1), with the exception of a small number of localities that could not be traced and later records that duplicated earlier records of the occurrence of foxes in a locality. This map was used to interpret the pattern (Fig. 2) and infer the rate of spread of the fox in Victoria. I ceased including records of foxes being chased by hunt clubs from the 1894 season, as no further novel information was likely to be provided.

**Table 1.** Records of, and comment about, foxes in south-eastern Australia in the period 1845-1940.

Localities referred to are in Victoria, unless distinguished by SA (South Australia) or NSW (New South Wales). In quotations, spelling and capitalisation are exactly as in the original; brackets enclose comment or interpretation by the author.

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45/1 | 1845 | 'Mr Fairfax Fenwick's station' near Point Henry, Geelong | Two foxes killed by the Corio hounds | *Geelong Advertiser* 10.5.1845: [2] [quoted in full by Rolls 1969: 314-6] |
| 45/2 | 1845 | Leigh River | 'Although we do not give regular reports of the various "meets" of the Corio Hounds, it is not from want of interest in the sport, nor yet from want of runs and incidents worth chronicling. The last two days were particularly satisfactory; that at Ormond's…was one of the most decisive affairs that has occurred in this part of the colony at least, - two foxes having been killed in succession after sharp runs'; the same article also describes runs after 'one of the largest dogs' [dingo] and a kangaroo | *Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate* 2.7.1845: [2]; *The Port Phillip Herald* 4.7.1845: [1] |
| 45/3 | 1845 | Bellarine Peninsula, near Geelong | At a meet of the Corio Hunt [Master, Mr Sladen], the run terminated 'in the death of a fox'; at the next meet after a 17 mile run 'the fox took the water at Swan Bay, reached Swan Spit, and after dodging for some time among the reedy islets, got off with his brush intact, giving hope that he will live to afford the hounds as good a run some other day. The place where the run terminated was twenty one miles from town' | *Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate* 7.8.1845: [2] |
| 46/1 | 1846 | Near Geelong | 'the sport hitherto obtained this season has been gratifying beyond all expectation – the number of 'kills' having been greater than the number of 'meets'. The hounds are in admirable condition, and the foxes plentiful.' (*Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate* 11.7.1846) | Baillieu 1982: 62 |
| 46/2 | 1846 | You Yangs | Corio hounds and Mr Pyke's party [Werribee hounds] met at Station peak. A fox and a kangaroo killed. [T.H. Pyke kept a pack of hounds at the Upper Werribee River, near Ballan] | *The Melbourne Argus* 8.9.1846: [2]; *The Australasian* 16.7.1887: 116 |
| 47/1 | 1847 | Leigh River, Bruce Creek, Marrabool River | Report of a meet of Ferrer's hounds on 25 June: 'reynard' found after one hour but crossed the river and was followed for 18 miles to Sharp's Creek, where its 'brush' was apparently taken | *The Port Phillip Herald* 1.7.1847: [5] |
| 50/1 | 1850s | South Yarra | A fox found in scrub near the present site of Melbourne Grammar School during a meet | Ronald 1970: 8 |
| 60/1 | c. ?1860 | | 'a few foxes were brought from England and liberated in order to provide game for huntsmen and hounds. I remember, as a boy, paying for the privilege of seeing a live fox in a cage' [Keartland was born in England in 1848 and came to Australia as a boy]. | Keartland 1920 |
| 60/2 | 1860 | Geelong district | At a meeting of the Geelong and Western Hunt Club 'an argument arose about the introduction of foxes to the colony, as an animal of the chase. Opinions seemed to vary as to the propriety of introducing what some designated vermin, but the majority seemed to think that the introduction of the fox would be harmless; and a sum of money was at once subscribed, to be increased, amounting to about £20, for the purpose of introducing Mr. Reynard to his new abode.' | *The Argus* 22.5.1860: 5 |
| 60/3 | 1860 | | Editorial refers to the Geelong Hunt Club and previous claims that the kangaroo 'had diverted their hearts from the true divinity. They had bowed before the shrine of Kangaroo, and forgotten their allegiance to the British martyr, Fox…it was unanimously resolved…that Master Fox should be invited to immigrate'. Although foxes eat poultry and 'game of all kinds' they 'never' kill lambs. The editorial describes the introduction of foxes as an 'insane proceeding', 'foolish', compares the fox to the thistle and characterises it as 'a noxious brute', refers to proponents as 'crack-brained enthusiasts', and suggests that Government legislate against their introduction. The editorial asked 'What would check their increase, if foxes were let loose here?' It was noted that Mr Chirnside was in favour of their introduction. | *The Argus* 2.6.1860: 4 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60/4 | 1860 | Brussels | Letter (20 October) from Edward Wilson to the editor of *The Argus*, including comment on the fox: 'Another interesting thing we had decided upon sending, but that the season was too much advanced for procuring young ones, with which only it would be safe to deal. I allude to the much-debated fox. …not only am I no fox-hunter, but I never even saw a fox-hunt…I should be very glad to hear of the introduction of the fox. However, the cub-season was over before the other things were ready, and for this year, at all events, the fox must be allowed to pass.' | *The Argus* 19.12.1860: 5 |
| 61/1 | 1861 | Melbourne | The ship *Copenhagen* brought in 'a brace [i.e. two] of foxes…to assist in preventing ['several pens of fowls of different kinds' ?pheasants, ?partridges] from becoming too numerous' | *The Argus* 12.11.1861: 5, 14.11.1861: 5 |
| 62/1 | 1862 | Melbourne | A pair of foxes brought from England by the ship *Anglesey* | *The Argus* 24.5.1862: 4 |
| 62/2 | 1862 | Essendon | A 'dog-fox' (recently landed from the Anglesey) to be turned out tomorrow for a hunt by Henderson's beagles | *The Argus* 24.6.1862: 5 |
| 62/3 | 1862 | Near Geelong (Point Henry Road) | An 'English fox' to be hunted on 10 July by Henderson's beagles; this proved a failure, and the animal was recaptured. The fact that this hunt was termed 'the first fox hunt held in the district' is suggestive that there were no wild foxes present around Geelong. | *The Argus* 4.7.1862: 5, 12.7.1862: 6, 12.7.1862: 7 |
| 62/4 | 1862 | Melbourne | A fox hunt with an 'English fox' and Henderson's beagles held [?indoors] at the Theatre Royal as part of Burton's Circus | *The Argus* 28.7.1862: 5, 8 |
| 63/1 | 1863 | | 'A few months ago, a cool proposition was made that the expiring race of dingoes should be supplemented by a shipment of fine young foxes. Several other instances of useless importations [by the Victorian Acclimatisation Society] might be cited' | *The Herald* 5.11.1863: 2 |
| 64/1 | 1864 | Melbourne | Claim made in a parliamentary speech that Edward Wilson had wanted to introduce foxes; noted that there are no foxes in Victoria to hunt | *The Argus* 4.2.1864: 6, 11.5.1864: 7 |
| 64/2 | 1864 | Melbourne | Melbourne Hunt Club expresses its willingness to hand over to the Acclimatisation Society 'a considerable sum of money' for the introduction of the fox to Victoria | *The Argus* 16.7.1864: 6 |
| 64/3 | 1864 | Melbourne | The Acclimatisation Society has imported 3 foxes (as well as partridges, doves and songbirds); all are in first rate order; the Society subsequently advised that the foxes are believed to be the property of the captain of the ship *Success* (from London via Plymouth), and were not brought in for the Society | *The Argus* 30.7.1864: 5, 1.8.1864: 6 |
| 64/4 | 1864 | Dandenong Ranges | 'half-a-dozen or more young foxes having been turned out on the Dandenong Ranges. Surely it is high time that the Acclimatisation Society should look to it, or they may import game, at a great expense, to feed foxes, for the amusement and exercise of a few hair[sic]brained individuals' | *The Argus* 28.12.1864: 5 |
| 65/1 | c. 1865 | ?Flemington | Flemington hounds established by Sam Waldock, who imported foxes and trained one to run home when put down at a distance from it. This fox and others were hunted for more than 2 years | Ronald 1970: 16 |
| 65/2 | 1865 | Port Melbourne | 'The first recorded importation of the fox to Australia was by a member of the Melbourne Hunt Club in 1865 of six foxes, which were landed at Sandridge pier from Money Wigram's ship *Yorkshire* in September of that year. Permission to land the foxes was asked of the authorities, and, strangely enough, refused, but when the officers went to seize the foxes, they found that they had been smuggled into the country.' | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 18.9.1909: 9 |
| 66/1 | 1866 | Yarraville | Melbourne hounds chased after a fox, which escaped but was bagged the next day | *The Argus* 12.6.1866: 5 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 66/2 | c. 1860-66 | Heidelberg, Oakleigh, Keilor | Reminiscences of Sam Waldock's pack (kennelled at Flemington), prior to its amalgamation with the Melbourne Hunt Club: 'we had many a glorious gallop after foxes in the country between Heidelberg and Oakleigh, as well as on the Keilor plains' | *The Argus* 14.6.1899: 9; *The Australasian* 17.6.1899: 1307 |
| 66/3 | 1866 | Flemington, Ascot Vale, Essendon | Sam Waldock had a 'half-bred' fox which was turned out regularly at meets and recaptured (Ascot Vale hounds) | *The Australasian* 30.6.1866: 395, 7.7.1866: 427, 28.7.1866: 522, 4.8.1866: 554, 25.8.1866: 651 |
| 67/1 | 1867 | Brunswick | Two days previously, Sam Waldock and his beagles hunted a fox 'that has enjoyed his liberty and the run of many fowlhouses about here for some time past'; the fox eluded the hounds. | *The Argus* 7.6.1867: 5 |
| 67/2 | 1867 | Brunswick | Flemington beagles 'had another merry run after the 'English fox' yesterday morning in Brunswick'; it was caught alive | *The Argus* 8.6.1867: 5 |
| 67/3 | 1867 | Royal Park | Waldock's fox was released in a paddock near Footscray and recaptured | *The Australasian* 15.6.1867: 748 |
| 67/4 | 1867 | Essendon | Sam Waldock's 'celebrated fox' was turned out but escaped at a meet of the Melbourne hounds. This was as a last resort when the red deer refused to run | *The Argus* 17.6.1867: 5, *The Australasian* 22.6.1867: 778 |
| 67/5 | 1867 | Keilor | Waldock's fox crept under an old house and was saved | *The Australasian* 29.6.1867: 811 |
| 67/6 | 1867 | Ascot Vale | Waldock's fox was released near Essendon and returned after a 15 mile chase to Waldock's house in Ascot Vale and lay in his box | *The Australasian* 6.7.1867: 11 |
| 67/7 | 1867 | Broadmeadows | Waldock's fox was released near Essendon but it escaped when the hounds were called off to avert damage to crops | *The Australasian* 20.7.1867: 75 |
| 67/8 | 1867 | Moonee Ponds | Waldock's fox was chased for 14 miles from near Essendon and was saved 'in a very ragged state' | *The Australasian* 3.8.1867: 138 |
| 67/9 | 1867 | Ascot Vale | Waldock's fox released near Maribyrnong, ran for home (16 mile chase) | *The Australasian* 10.8.1867: 171 |
| 67/10 | 1867 | Kororoit | Waldock's fox lost | *The Australasian* 7.9.1867: 299 |
| 67/11 | 1867 | Near Broadmeadows | 'In the early part of last week some boys brought back the fox which…we lost near Keilor in the previous Saturday'. The fox was released near Essendon but was lost | *The Australasian* 14.9.1867: 332 |
| 67/12 | 1867 | Near Maribyrnong River | Waldock's fox released near Essendon and recaptured | *The Australasian* 21.9.1867:363 |
| 67/13 | 1867 | Broadmeadows | Waldock's fox released near Campbellfield and recaptured. 'A bagman is not generally considered the correct thing, but Waldock's fox is an exceptional animal, well up to his business, and we cannot afford to be too particular in a country where the real thing [wild game] is not plentiful.' (editorial) | *The Australasian* 5.10.1867: 427, 425 |
| 68/1 | 1868 | | 'By the kindness of Mr. Goyder [proprietor of Goyder's Hunt Club Hotel], Sam [Waldock, Master of the Flemington Hounds] has become possessed of another fox, which was recently imported from England, and was purchased by Mr. Goyder.' | *The Australasian* 4.4.1868: 428 |
| 68/2 | 1868 | Kilmore | 'A fox, which appears to have escaped from the custody of some master of hounds, has been committing numerous depredations in the poultry-yards in and about Kilmore.' | *The Argus* 16.4.1868: 5 |
| 68/3 | 1868 | | 'kangaroos are getting scarce in the neighbourhood of Melbourne, deer will be principally hunted, and, no doubt, "the celebrated fox" will again be able to hold his own before the united forces [of the Flemington and Melbourne hounds]' | *The Australasian* 25.4.1868: 524 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 68/4 | 1868 | | 'of the importations, we remarked that of English foxes, which may help in due time to keep in check the kangaroo, as well as the pheasants [introduced by the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria] and the rabbits.' | *The Australasian* 25.4.1868: 538-9; see also *The Argus* 29.4.1868: 7 |
| 68/5 | 1868 | Braybrook district | 'the fox was viewed…he gave them [the Melbourne hounds] the slip in the rocks' on the Maribyrnong River; the hunt commenced near Essendon. The fox was Sam Waldock's 'old fox.' | *The Australasian* 20.6.1868: 778; also *The Argus* 15.6.1868: 5 |
| 68/6 | 1868 | ?near Essendon | 'they coursed the fox through Love's paddock…whipped off the hounds [of the Melbourne Hunt Club] before they quite reached him. Reynard was then secured and bagged once more.' | *The Australasian* 27.6.1868: 810; *The Argus* 22.6.1868: 5 |
| 68/7 | 1868 | | At a meet of the Melbourne Hunt Club, it was intended to release a bagged fox (described as having a strap around the neck) but circumstances did not permit this | *The Australasian* 11.7.1868: 43-44 |
| 68/8 | 1868 | Braybrook | The bagged fox [of Sam Waldock] was run by the Melbourne Hunt Club from Essendon and retrieved uninjured | *The Australasian* 18.7.1868: 75; *The Argus* 13.7.1868: 5 |
| 68/9 | 1868 | Ballarat district | Ballarat Hunt Club has arranged for the purchase of 3 foxes (a dog and 2 vixens) 'to be turned out in a place well suited to their requirements, and where their services in the way of rabbit catchers will be duly appreciated by many who have found [rabbits] a most intolerable nuisance'. The fox is 'likely to find more friends in his new home than he left behind in the old country.' | *The Argus* 14.8.1868: 7 |
| 68/10 | 1868 | | Reference to 'the celebrated Flemington fox' by Ballarat Hunt Club (which has the equivalent in a kangaroo) | *The Australasian* 15.8.1868: 203 |
| 68/11 | 1868 | | 'Weekly hunts are got up, and a fox is chased, caught, and let loose to be hunted again, much as is done with stags in England' | Allen 1870: 208 |
| 69/1 | 1869 | Melbourne | 'An unusual zoological importation': 2 foxes from New Zealand via the SS *Otago* for Mr George Watson [sometime Master and now a member of the Melbourne Hunt Club] | *The Argus* 7.1.1869: 4, 5 |
| 69/2 | 1869 | Melbourne | *Swiftsure* yesterday ex London brought 'several fine fox cubs' and a number of ferrets | *The Argus* 29.6.1869: 5 |
| 69/3 | 1869 | Braybrook | A fox was turned loose near Braybrook on 20 July, chased, and killed by the hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 24.7.1869: 108 |
| 69/4 | 1869 | Ballarat | Two foxes exhibited at the agricultural show, along with several unusual species of birds | *The Argus* 15.10.1869: 7 |
| 69/5 | 1869 | Geelong | One fox and a 'very fine collection' of ferrets exhibited at the agricultural show: 'Foxes would…appear to be on the increase amongst us'; this allusion is in the context of keeping down rabbits. | *The Argus* 22.10.1869: 7 |
| 69/6 | 1869 | | During this year (May-October), the Melbourne hounds (S. Waldock, master) hunted 8 fallow deer *(Dama dama)*, 1 fox, and 2 dingoes. | *The Argus* 18.5.1870: 5 |
| 69/7 | 1869 | Dandenong | Fox hunt | Ronald 1970: 17 |
| 70/1 | 1870 | Melbourne | 'a very fine' [female] fox brought from Hampshire on the *Suffolk*. | *The Argus* 6.6.1870: 5 |
| 70/2 | c. 1870 | Seymour | A fox intended for the Kilmore hounds escaped during the night from the coach | *The Argus* 27.6.1940: 12 |
| 71/1 | 1871 | Royal Park | A fox donated by Mr Broadbent of Melbourne to the Acclimatisation Society | *The Argus* 11.2.1871: 5 |
| 71/2 | 1871 | Flemington | A fox to be turned out and chased at tomorrow's meet by the Flemington hounds | *The Argus* 4.7.1871: 5, *The Australasian* 8.7.1871: 43 |
| 71/3 | 1871 | Belmont (Geelong) | Sam Waldock's 'well known fox' was released and then pursued by the Flemington hounds. It was recaptured. | *The Argus* 31.7.1871: 5, *The Australasian* 5.8.1871: 172 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 71/4 | 1871 | Flemington | A fox to be chased at the next meet of the Flemington hounds | *The Argus* 15.8.1871: 5, *The Australasian* 19.8.1871: 235 |
| 71/5 | 1871 | Geelong | A pair of foxes exhibited at the agricultural show (the property of J. Quiney, cf. record 72/5) | *The Argus* 13.10.1871: 7, *The Australasian* 14.10.1872: 504 |
| 72/1 | 1872 | Royal Park | One 'English fox' listed as present in the zoo | Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria 1872 |
| 72/2 | 1872 | Essendon | A fox pursued from Footscray by the Flemington hounds, but it escaped | *The Argus* 20.6.1872: 5, *The Australasian* 29.6.1872: 813 |
| 72/3 | 1872 | Near Essendon | 'the fox pointing for the Saltwater river…the fox leading them [Flemington hounds] home [the kennels at Flemington] in gallant style.' | *The Argus* 15.7.1872: 5 |
| 72/4 | 1872 | Near Essendon | 'the quarry hunted was the old dog fox who has so often led this pack [Flemington hounds] a merry scamper across country' (the fox was chased from Maribyrnong to Keilor and Essendon where it was saved, uninjured) | *The Argus* 22.7.1872: 5 |
| 72/5 | 1872 | Between Batesford and Bell Park, Geelong | 'For the last four or five miles a fox, the property of Mr. J. Quiney, was hunted' by the Flemington hounds | *The Argus* 9.8.1872: 5 |
| 72/6 | 1872 | Geelong | Cages of 'ferrets, foxes, and guinea pigs' exhibited at the agricultural show | *The Argus* 19.10.1872: 6 |
| 73/1 | 1873 | Melbourne | 'As interesting to sporting men, we may mention that two foxes, very fine specimens of their kind, have been brought out here in the ship Stonehouse, which arrived from London yesterday.' | *The Argus* 10.4.1873: 5 |
| 73/2 | 1873 | Melbourne | 'During the Easter holidays, two Ballarat gentlemen were awaiting the departure of an up-country train at the Spencer street station'; an unpleasant smell led to the detection of 'a fine brace [i.e. two] of foxes' ready to be placed on board the train. These were released 'on the way up, on the Ballarat line…in a splendid rabbity country' This item was reprinted from a Ballarat newspaper. *The Herald* commented that the item 'is of interest to sportsmen, particularly when it is known that the quadrupeds [foxes] and bipeds [pheasants] referred to were imported by Mr. Chirnside'. | *The Herald* 18.4.1873: 2 |
| 73/3 | 1873 | Melbourne | 'Two foxes, intended for the delectation of the votaries of Nimrod, have arrived here in the ship Jerusalem, from London. There were three shipped, but one died on the voyage out. Mr. Chirnside, it is said, is responsible for their introduction.' | *The Argus* 16.9.1873: 5 |
| 74/1 | 1874 | Ballarat | An attempt made to form a hunt club 'on a scale equal to the splendid [game] facilities the district now affords, with foxes, hares, and kangaroos [being abundant]' | *The Argus* 3.2.1874:6 |
| 74/2 | 1874 | Pleasant Creek near Ballarat | 'about three years ago [?1871], a dog and vixen fox were let loose about 12 miles from Ballarat, by a well-known sportsman and acclimatiser of this city', in an area abounding with rabbits. 'Now scarcely a rabbit can be seen about the locality'; 'The cubs of one and two seasons' growth have been seen several times within the past few weeks'; although poultry are 'occasionally' taken, the farmers affected are looking forward to fox-hunting in 1-2 years. | *The Argus* 19.6.1874: 5 |
| 76/1 | 1876 |  | A fox shipped on the *Moravian*, from London, 'disappeared on the voyage.' [Two horses brought out are said to be for Thomas Chirnside] | *The Argus* 4.11.1876: 7 |
| 77/1 | 1877 | Melbourne | Two pairs of foxes (and three brace of fox hounds from Surrey) brought out from London on SS *Kent* | *The Argus* 18.7.1877: 5 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 78/1 | 1878 | Laverton | 'The covers in the neighbourhood of Laverton were drawn for a fox, but game was so plentiful that the [Melbourne Hunt Club] hounds were continually changing. Several foxes were on foot, but there were so many deer, hares, and rabbits, that it was impossible to single one out.' 'at Laverton, where a few foxes are located'. | *The Argus* 19.8.1878: 5; *The Australasian* 24.8.1878: 235 |
| 78/2 | 1878 | Point Cook-Laverton | 'The foxes at Laverton are some which Messrs. Chirnside imported and set at large at Point Cook, but as there is more cover at the former place the foxes like it better. Moreover, there are rabbits in great numbers, upon which they feed. As Mr. Phelps, the present owner of Laverton, is a good game preserver, there is every reason to hope that in a year or two we shall have, in addition to our present sport [staghunting], some fox-hunting, and so leave no excuse with those gentlemen who decline to hunt any game but the fox.' 'we have not a sufficient number of [foxes] yet to warrant us hunting them' | *The Australasian* 24.8.1878: 235 |
| 78/3 | 1878 | North Shore (near Geelong) | That foxes 'have found a habitation and a name in the colony is a fact with which few are acquainted, and the importation is not held in favor by the farmers who remember that in the old country they were as fond of paying a visit to the hen roost as to a flock of sheep. One of the sons of Mr J. T. Kirk, of the Duck Ponds, noticed a few days since, that in a flock of 1200 lambing ewes in his paddock near the North Shore, a lamb had been killed. It was supposed that the dog of some neighbor had destroyed the lamb, although it was killed in an unusual way, the shoulders being torn off as if the animal, vampire-like, wished to get inside and suck the blood, and get the liver. Enquiries were made of some fishermen at the North Shore, and the fact was elicited that five foxes had taken up their quarters on a little island near the beach, opposite the Bird Rocks, and that they were probably the depredators. A watch was kept, and one was seen to emerge from the mangrove scrub in the vicinity, which was shot at, but escaped. Two days afterwards, however, Mr Kirk found the animal dead. The fox was a good specimen, with a fine bushy tail, equal to anything he had seen in the old country, 35 years before. Other neighbors are complaining of similar depredations, and it has been determined to lay poison in the vicinity. Mr Kirk had to remove his flock to more safe quarters.' | *The Herald* 6.9.1878: 2 |
| 78/4 | 1878 | Little River | 'I was sorry to [read] that foxes are being shot at a place called the Bird Rock near the Little River. I trust Messrs. Chirnside may be able to devise some means of protecting the few that are left there.' | *The Australasian* 14.9.1878: 333 |
| 78/5 | 1878 | Near You Yangs | Two foxes seen last week; 'It is thus evident that these pests are increasing in number, and, as a natural consequence, extending their depredations' | *The Herald* 2.10.1878: unpaginated |
| 79/1 | 1879 | Near You Yangs | Loss of c. 40 turkeys 'during a short space of time', including 12 turkeys in one night, attributed to foxes. More than one fox seen recently in the neighbourhood. It is to be 'feared that the fox nuisance will shortly become as great as the rabbit pest.' | *The Argus* 7.2.1879: 7 |
| 79/2 | 1879 | North Shore (near Geelong) | Two foxes disturbed; after a 2 mile run one was caught by a dog and killed | *The Argus* 5.3.1879: 7 |
| 79/3 | 1879 | Brisbane Ranges, Anakies, You Yangs, Cowies Creek | Foxes recently seen; 'quite common to see them on the plains between the Little River and the Werribee' | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 15.4.1879: [3] |
| 79/4 | 1879 |  | 'foxes are not yet sufficiently numerous and probably never will become so, owing to the foolish hostility shown to them, the hounds now have no resource but [deer]…which…is now the recognised quarry of the Melbourne Hunt Club.' | *The Australasian* 24.5.1879: 649 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 79/5 | 1879 | Moorabool district | Several foxes captured in rabbit traps | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 13.6.1879: [2] |
| 79/6 | 1879 | Near Jan Juc (south of Geelong) | Young foxes seen here recently attributed to a sportsman who had liberated a male and female fox 'some time since'; 'increasing at an alarming rate, and doing a great amount of mischief'; lambs have been killed; proposed that the Government should offer £5 for each fox caught. | *The Argus* 18.6.1879: 3 |
| 79/7 | 1879 | Geelong district | Foxes are 'becoming so numerous…as to cause the serious consideration of our sheep-breeders for the best means of their total extirpation. This growing evil has manifested itself to such an enormous extent in this district that, in comparison, the hare and rabbit pest sinks into insignificance. Along the north shore of Corio Bay, from Avalon to Point Cooke, the ravages of these animals may be daily witnessed. Young lambs in scores may be seen scattered over the sheepruns, the clean cut throats, bloodless and mangled carcase… When suffering from…hunger, the brutes will even attack full-grown sheep, it being no uncommon occurrence to see a fox clinging to an unfortunate sheep…' | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 1.8.1879: 5 |
| 79/8 | 1879 | Wyndham Shire [Werribee district] | 'The residents in a portion of Wyndham Shire are complaining of the presence of foxes in the district. In one part of the shire it is a common occurrence of a morning to see a couple of foxes scampering over the plains. Wild birds and turkeys [bustard, *Ardeotis australis*] were, a few years since, rather numerous; now they are scarce. Very often the dead bodies of turkeys are found headless and bloodless on the plains, and the conclusion is that the foxes are responsible.' | *The Herald* 2.8.1879: unpaginated |
| 79/9 | 1879 | Little River | 'foxes are increasing rapidly throughout the [Little River] district.' | *The Argus* 1.9.1879: 7 |
| 79/10 | 1879 | Little River & Werribee districts | Foxes held responsible for a 5-8% decrease in this season's lambing | *The Argus* 15.10.1879: 5 |
| 79/11 | 1879 |  | 'the introducers of rabbits, hares, foxes, and greyhounds ought to be prosecuted' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 31: 1454 |
| 79/12 | c.1879 | 'near Melbourne' | 'A landowner (who shall be nameless) 27 years ago liberated near Melbourne 6 pairs of foxes "just for sport"' | Anon. 1906 |
| 80/1 | 1880 | Geelong district | 'Foxes are becoming very numerous, and fears are entertained that they will become a great nuisance. They were first imported and placed in the locality of the Duck Ponds, and they are numerous on the You Yangs and other places, and have even reached the town.' One trapped yesterday near the Barwon River. | *The Argus* 6.1.1880: 6 |
| 80/2 | 1880 | Braybrook | Findon Harriers intend to hunt a fox at the next meet | *The Argus* 22.4.1880: 5 |
| 80/3 | 1880 | North Shore (Geelong) | One fox seen with a hare in its mouth | *The Australasian* 24.4.1880: 526 |
| 80/4 | 1880 | Little River | A silver-coloured fox seen recently near Paradise farm (the property of R. Chirnside) | *The Herald* 24.6.1880: unpaginated |
| 80/5 | 1880 | North Shore (Geelong) | Recent storm waters flooded 'for a couple of days' burrows of rabbits and swamped the scrub on the shore, 'which was infested by the foxes'; no rabbits or foxes have been seen since the inundation | *The Herald* 24.9.1880: unpaginated |
| 80/6 | 1880 | Pomborneit | A fox captured in a rabbit trap | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 7.12.1880: [2] |
| 80/7 | 1880 | Clayton | 5 fox burrows dug out, 32 cubs destroyed, with the smallest litter being 5 | Keartland 1920 |
| 80/8 | 1880 | Hexham | Rumours of the presence of the fox and an apparent sighting and chase by dogs | Rolls 1969: 323 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 81/1 | 1881 | Werribee Park and Sunbury | 'If the Messrs. [T. and A.] Chirnside and [W.J.] Clarke were to preserve "foxes" on their estates, and plant some gorse coverts, we should soon see a good pack again' | *The Australasian* 12.2.1881: 203 |
| 81/2 | 1881 | Near Mortlake | 'A fox was shot yesterday a couple of miles from Mortlake, on the Shadwell-park Estate.' | *The Argus* 25.4.1881: 7 |
| 81/3 | 1881 |  | 'However, perhaps brighter times are in store, as foxes are becoming numerous, and if they could be found in parts from which they would afford a run, we [Melbourne Hunt Club] feel sure the chase in Victoria would soon become the most popular means of amusement with a great number'; 'has made numerous enemies, who compass his destruction in every possible way'; fond of young turkey, chicken and rabbit | *The Australasian* 21.5.1881: 649 |
| 81/4 | 1881 | Bacchus Marsh, Woodend, Williamstown | 'Foxes will probably be the next vermin pest Victorian landowners will have to contend with'; 'They are becoming numerous on the plains near the sea coast from Williamstown round to near Geelong, and are very destructive to poultry, especially turkeys. They are increasing in this neighbourhood [Bacchus Marsh], and are numerous in the Woodend district' | *The Australasian* 11.6.1881: 760 |
| 81/5 | 1881 | Yendon | 'foxes are spreading fast, having already been seen near Yendon railway-station…there is the chance of a real fox hunt some of these days for the [recently revived Ballarat hunt] club' | *The Australasian* 11.6.1881: 760 |
| 81/6 | 1881 |  | Engraving of a fox eyeing off a group of rabbits, with the caption 'The coming rabbit exterminator'; 'it has in some parts been thought that the increase of foxes…will be likely to have a great effect in checking their spread, and even, perhaps, towards destroying them. Whether this expectation will be realised, and if so, whether the result would not be the substitution of one evil for another, remain to be seen.' | *The Australasian Sketcher* 30.7.1881: 246 |
| 81/7 | 1881 | Avalon Estate (near Lara) | 60 foxes killed during the past 3 months | *The Argus* 9.9.1881: 3 |
| 81/8 | 1881 | Jackson's Creek [Kyneton district] | Mr W.J. Clarke offered £1 for every fox caught at Jackson's Creek (26 March) | Anon. 1935 |
| 81/9 | 1881 |  | Under the Protection of Animals Act 1881 [about cruelty to animals], foxes are exempted, and may be exterminated | 45 Vic 712 (24.12.1881) |
| 81/10 | 1881 | Noorat | A fox seen and chased by a boundary rider | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 30.7.1881: [3] |
| 81/11 | 1881 | Ballarat | A fox seen c. 2 miles from Ballarat (near Black Hill) | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 21.9.1881: [2] |
| 82/1 | 1882 | Coliban River | Mr G.W. Johnson shot a fox near his home, Ellison, on Coliban River. This proves foxes 'were domiciled in Kyneton district' (10 March) | Anon. 1935 |
| 82/2 | 1882 | Mt Blowhard, Elaine | 'I hear that foxes have been seen wild in the hills to the north of Mount Blowhard, and also near Elaine' | *The Australasian* 13.5.1882: 589 |
| 82/3 | 1882 | Near Ballarat | A fox let go for the Ballarat hounds to chase; ' a bagman…is not by any means to be despised in default of better game' | *The Australasian* 13.5.1882: 589 |
| 82/4 | 1882 | Near Williamstown | Two foxes killed last week | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 13.6.1882: 6 |
| 82/5 | 1882 | Near Ballarat | 'a fox was let go near the Rose-hill Hotel'; it was chased by the Ballarat hounds towards Mt Rowan for 1-2 miles before it was captured and killed by them | *The Australasian* 17.6.1882: 750 |
| 82/6 | 1882 | Diggers Rest | Two foxes seen; the scarcity of hares is attributed to the presence of foxes; recent predation on turkeys has been on an 'extensive scale'. | *The Argus* 23.6.1882: 3 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 82/7 | 1882 | Near Lake Connewarre | A large fox killed | *The Argus* 24.6.1882: 12 |
| 82/8 | 1882 | | 'here we cannot command such game [i.e. foxes for hunting with hounds]' | *The Australasian* 8.7.1882: 43 |
| 82/9 | 1882 | Avalon | Foxes living in mangroves near the beach; they are estimated to kill each year c. 400 lambs, weak sheep, and weaners out of 13 500 sheep; 70 foxes have been killed since last winter, including 20 since January last; shooting is considered more effective than poisoning. | *The Argus* 18.7.1882: 10 |
| 82/10 | 1882 | Ballarat | A large fox found sheltering behind a tank on a property in Doveton Street | *The Argus* 3.8.1882: 5 |
| 82/11 | 1882 | Laverton | Foxes 'becoming so numerous and destructive'; a battue held | *The Argus* 12.8.1882: 9, 18.8.1882: 5, 21.8.1882: 9 |
| 82/12 | 1882 | Plenty | A large fox, recently caught unhurt at Sunbury, was liberated at Janefield, and pursued by the Findon Harriers until it escaped on the ranges of the Plenty River | *The Argus* 14.8.1882: 7 |
| 82/13 | 1882 | Ceres | A bagged fox let go; this was killed by the Ballarat hounds after a 2 mile run | *The Australasian* 19.8.1882: 236 |
| 82/14 | 1882 | Craigieburn | 'A fox was liberated' in a paddock and was recaptured between Epping and Thomastown after a 12 mile run by the Findon Harriers | *The Argus* 1.9.1882: 5; *The Australasian* 2.9.1882: 300 |
| 82/15 | 1882 | Laverton district | 'is reputed as swarming with foxes', but none seen by the Melbourne Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 16.9.1882: 363 |
| 82/16 | 1882 | Toorborac and Kyneton district | Foxes 'have made their appearance'; one farmer has had 200 lambs killed by foxes this year | *The Argus* 14.11.1882: 6 |
| 82/17 | 1882 | Williamstown | A 'large' fox killed | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 1.7.1882: [3] |
| 82/18 | 1882 | Ballarat district | Foxes becoming 'very numerous' | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 13.9.1882: [4] |
| 83/1 | <1883 | Footscray, Albion, Werribee, You Yangs | 'The importation of the fox was less justifiable than that of the rabbit and the hare. He was brought over the sea for the pleasure of those who could just as well have pursued a red herring or a sponge soaked with powerful scent. The enjoyment of a hunt is surely not enhanced by the suspicion that you are on the track of a fox. A deer gives as good, if not a better, run; and a dingo, if given a little law, can make the pace as hot as the most ardent Nimrod can desire. The foxes, however, have not as yet established a very firm footing in the country. Formerly we used to hear of Reynard visiting the fowl-houses of persons residing on the outskirts of Footscray and Albion. The pest was next heard of at the Werribee, where he seems to have attacked lambs. Finally he settled his family in the gorges of the You Yangs, making excursions to the plains below as hunger urged him. Round about his lair he had hares and rabbits at command. Still being something of an epicure, he could not get along without poultry. Hence his occasional sly visits to the back yards of the residents of the Little River. Recently, however, his depredations having roused the indignation of the turkey-rearers and goose-tenders, a battue was resolved upon. Reynard's stronghold was stormed, and nearly 40 of his race fell victims to the attack. Though not a final blow to this unwelcome pest, it will probably act as a wholesome check on the increase of the race…the national wealth has not been increased by the introduction of the fox' | *The Australasian* 7.7.1883: S5 |
| 83/2 | 1883 | Janefield | The Master of the Findon Harriers turned out a fox, departing from the usual custom of pursuing the hare. This fox was killed at South Morang after a one hour run that covered c. 12 miles | *The Australasian* 21.7.1883: 75 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 83/3 | 1883 | Near Ballarat | 'No doubt if we had wild foxes we [Ballarat Hunt Club] should prefer them to any other game… Unfortunately, we have no foxes or wild deer in this part of the country' | *The Australasian* 25.8.1883: 235 |
| 83/4 | 1883 | | 'the common British fox, which unfortunately promises to become only too well known in this colony' | *The Australasian* 6.10.1883: S4 |
| 84/1 | 1884 | Geelong district | Foxes increasing rapidly in the shires of Winchelsea, South Barwon, and Barrabool, with 'much annoyance' being caused by depredation on poultry. South Barwon and Barrabool councils are offering 10s per scalp. | *The Argus* 3.5.1884: 10 |
| 84/2 | 1884 | Daylesford district | Foxes are 'making their appearance', with recent sightings at Eganstown (specimen shot) and Bullarto (very large animal with a hare in its mouth) | *The Argus* 5.5.1884: 3 |
| 84/3 | 1884 | Bruce's Creek, Wabdallah | Foxes numerous and frequently seen in these localities | *The Argus* 15.5.1884: 6 |
| 84/4 | 1884 | Pyke's Creek (Ballan) | Foxes becoming very plentiful, with depredations on poultry. One fox killed was 'as long in the body as an ordinary-sized sheepdog'. 20 foxes, large and small, were seen this autumn. | *The Argus* 17.5.1884: 10 |
| 84/5 | 1884 | Teesdale | Foxes are getting 'alarmingly numerous around Teesdale, killing numbers of young lambs'; Leigh Shire Council is offering a bonus of 10s; they appear to 'have not yet spread to any very great extent'; no doubt that they occur between Werribee River and Rokewood and may be as far inland as Ballarat; 'Their present number will hardly exceed one thousand'; big increase in past 2 years | *The Australasian* 31.5.1884: 682 |
| 84/6 | 1884 | Creswick, Daylesford, Kooroocheaning, Kangaroo Hills | Foxes undoubtedly gaining ground throughout the farming district between Creswick and Daylesford; also seen around Kooroocheaning and Kangaroo Hills | *The Australasian* 7.6.1884: 730 |
| 84/7 | 1884 | Bannockburn | Because foxes are 'becoming daily more numerous', the shire council has decided to offer 10s for every fox killed in the shire | *The Argus* 16.7.1884: 5 |
| 84/8 | 1884 | Near Ballarat | 'A fox presented by Mr. J.T. Taylor, of Melbourne, was shaken in the paddock'; it was allowed a 20 min start [for the Ballarat hounds] and it then disappeared and after a 5-6 mile run escaped; 'I devoutly hope that so stout a fox may live long to perpetuate his species' | *The Australasian* 19.7.1884: 115 |
| 84/9 | 1884 | Meredith | Foxes are becoming 'unpleasantly numerous', causing death of lambs (one landowner reported 300 lambs killed). The shire council has decided to offer 10s for the skin of every fox killed in the shire. | *The Argus* 31.7.1884: 6 |
| 84/10 | 1884 | Connewarre district (Geelong) | Foxes very numerous, killing lambs and poultry | *The Argus* 12.8.1884: 6 |
| 84/11 | 1884 | Near Ballarat | Fox caught and killed by Ballarat hounds | *The Australasian* 16.8.1884: 308 |
| 84/12 | 1884 | | 'the ravages committed by…foxes and hares. In many districts foxes are becoming quite common, and their presence is always marked by a steady diminution of the number of lambs' | *The Australasian* 23.8.1884: 346 |
| 84/13 | 1884 | | Half-yearly meeting of the Central committee of the Municipal Association of Victoria seeking effectual legislation from the Government to aid the destruction of foxes in Victoria | *The Argus* 3.10.1884: 6 |
| 84/14 | 1884 | Near Camperdown | One fox seen in forest south of Camperdown | *The Argus* 6.11.1884: 7 |
| 84/15 | 1884 | | Foxes, sparrows and rabbits were each introduced by three sets of 'well-meaning' people | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 46: 1384 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 84/16 | 1884 | | 'At present the Government were powerless to prevent the importation of animals, and any one could import what he liked. The consequence was that rabbits had been imported one year, the mongoose another year, and the foxes another.' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 46: 1384 |
| 84/17 | 1884 | | Foxes 'were originally introduced for hunting purposes, and had become so numerous in some parts of the country as to be a most serious evil. The importation and acclimatisation of any animals which were likely to be destructive should be prohibited by law.' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 46: 1386 |
| 84/18 | 1884 | Near Camperdown | Two foxes seen between Lake Bullen Merri and Mt Leura | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 2.7.1884: [2] |
| 84/19 | 1884 | Grenville | A large fox (suspected of killing lambs) killed by 2 cattle dogs | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 9.7.1884: [3] |
| 84/20 | 1884 | Mouth of Curdies River & Nirranda | A fox caught in a rabbit trap and another seen | *The Camperdown Chronicle* 13.9.1884: [2] |
| 85/1 | 1885 | West Melbourne | 'fox [donated to Zoological and Acclimatisation Society] from Mr. H.S. West, Caledonian Hotel, West Melbourne' | *The Australasian* 7.2.1885: 255 |
| 85/2 | 1885 | Upper Macedon | Foxes numerous and very destructive | *The Argus* 13.2.1885: 5 |
| 85/3 | 1885 | Between mouths of Duck Ponds Creek and Little River | Foxes numerous and troublesome; proposal to destroy the scrub on the coastal reserve 'as a remedy for the nuisance' | *The Argus* 12.3.1885: 5 |
| 85/4 | 1885 | Barrabool district | Foxes greatly on the increase in the shire. Proposal to request permission of the Minister of Lands for shire councils to pay a bonus for foxes killed. | *The Argus* 30.3.1885: 7 |
| 85/5 | 1885 | Janefield | 'A fox had been presented to the master [of the Findon Harriers], which he decided upon turning loose, converting the harriers for the first time into a pack of fox-hounds' | *The Australasian* 30.5.1885: 1028 |
| 85/6 | 1885 | Point Cook | A fox 'seen a little while before' [report to Melbourne Hunt Club] | *The Australasian* 6.6.1885: 1076 |
| 85/7 | 1885 | Ballarat district | 'accounts [of foxes] from Elaine, from the hilly country round Mount Bolton, and from many other places in the district' | *The Australasian* 6.6.1885: 1076 |
| 85/8 | 1885 | Near Pirron Yallock | Several foxes caught, but not yet sufficiently plentiful to cause 'much damage' | *The Argus* 18.6.1885: 3 |
| 85/9 | 1885 | Werribee Park | 'where it was said there was a fox which was intended as a supplement to our stag hunt [Melbourne Hunt Club]' | *The Australasian* 20.6.1885: 1172 |
| 85/10 | 1885 | Egerton | Poison baits have killed 7 foxes on one farm in recent weeks | *The Argus* 4.7.1885: 10 |
| 85/11 | 1885 | Yuloak Vale (near [?Mt] Egerton) | Foxes removing rabbits from traps; some also get trapped | *The Argus* 18.7.1885: 7 |
| 85/12 | 1885 | A few miles north of Gordon | Foxes have destroyed 36 lambs; in some places poultry yards were 'swept clean in a single night' | *The Argus* 25.7.1885: 10 |
| 85/13 | 1885 | Western district | 'The fox has changed both his ideas and his tastes. He now prefers young lambs to poultry, and allows the rabbit to go scot-free. The latter is too much trouble to catch, and is not worth going after. Consequently the English fox is assuming the propensities of the dingo' | *The Argus* 8.8.1885: 13; also *The Australasian* 15.8.1885: S2 and Taylor 1886: 190 |
| 85/14 | 1885 | Ballan | Foxes have destroyed 'numbers of lambs this season, and in some parts of the district even the weaker ewes have been killed'; attributed to reduced abundance of rabbits. | *The Argus* 13.8.1885: 6 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 85/15 | 1885 | | 'The fox…now prefers young lambs to poultry, allowing the young rabbit to go scot free…the fox is assuming the propensities of the dingo' | *The Australasian* 15.8.1885: S2 |
| 85/16 | 1885 | Leigh shire [Geelong district] | £78 paid by the shire on 96 foxes during the last 3 years | *The Argus* 5.9.1885: 5 |
| 85/17 | 1885 | Werribee Park | (Editorial) Messrs Chirnside of Werribee Park introduced foxes 15 years ago [1870], apparently for the purpose of providing sport for the Melbourne Hunt Club. 'Finding a secure harbour amongst the dense samphire scrub that skirts portions of the shores of Port Philip [sic] Bay, the foxes multiplied apace, and gradually extended their stronghold along the coast towards Geelong, where their numbers increased so rapidly that they gradually commenced migrating inland, taking up their homes in the You Yangs, and extending thence northerly into the Ballarat district, and westerly around Geelong and towards the Otway forest, until, at the present time, the various localities in the districts named are densely infested with these vermin…depredations amongst the farmers' flocks and the cottagers' fowl roosts…The annual losses attributed to [foxes] reach alarming proportions, and…are a source of general complaint…People are recognizing that [the fox] is likely to become a far worse enemy to the farmer and grazier than the despised rabbit…Foxes…are an unmitigated evil. They have not a single redeeming point in their favour…The fox can only be of value for sport' | *The Weekly Times* 12.9.1885 (from Jones 1994) |
| 85/18 | 1885 | | 'The fox is a natural enemy of the rabbit, but he is also a destroyer of lambs, and is altogether too powerfully a foe of the farmer to be lightly entrusted with the task of keeping down the rodents' | *The Australasian* 17.10.1885: 730 |
| 85/19 | 1885 | Mt Macedon | Foxes plentiful | *The Argus* 14.11.1885: 6 |
| 85/20 | 1885 | | 'foxes…were rapidly spreading throughout the colony'; steps ought to be taken to get rid of foxes on purchased land between Geelong and Ballarat' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 48: 1000 |
| 85/21 | 1885 | Harrow | Foxes seen, close up to the edge of the mallee | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 48: 1000 |
| 85/22 | 1885 | | Proclamation protecting quolls, feral cats, and goannas (but not foxes) as enemies of the rabbit under the Rabbit Suppression Acts of 1880 and 1884 in 9 boroughs and 55 shires. Declared protected species could not legally be wounded, killed, captured, sold or disposed of. | *Victoria Government Gazette* 69: 1421, 70: 1899 |
| 85/23 | 1885 | Mallee region | Foxes declared to be vermin on 14.9.1885 under the Mallee Pastoral Leases Act 1883 | *Victoria Government Gazette* 70: 2649 |
| 86/1 | 1886 | Evansford, Lexton Springs | Foxes increasing very rapidly, causing much anxiety amongst flock owners; councils are offering 10s/head; expectation that foxes will make havoc with lambs before their number can be reduced | *The Australasian* 3.4.1886: 633 |
| 86/2 | 1886 | Clunes | The 'fox nuisance' is spreading in this district; a fox shot near Mt Beckworth measured 3ft 9in from nose to tip of tail, The Shire of Talbot pays 10s for every fox killed within its boundaries. | *The Argus* 16.4.1886: 3 |
| 86/3 | 1886 | Ballarat | A fox seen running up Sturt Street in broad daylight (forepaws injured in a trap); foxes are becoming very numerous in the district. | *The Argus* 28.4.1886: 6, 3.6.1886: 7 |
| 86/4 | 1886 | Mulgrave | Three foxes seen; one killed; geese missing from a farm | *The Argus* 16.6.1886: 9 |
| 86/5 | 1886 | Ballan district | Ravages of foxes among the newly dropped lambs, possibly linked to reduced numbers of rabbits. Every lamb killed in one paddock at Ingliston. Foxes 'very numerous' at Yaloakvale but 'easily induced' to take poison. | *The Argus* 14.7.1886: 6 |
| 86/6 | 1886 | Talbot district | Foxes increasing 'very rapidly', causing great destruction. A litter discovered at Mt Misery (between Ercildoune and Langi Kal Kal) contained 9 cubs. | *The Argus* 15.7.1886: 9 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86/7 | 1886 | Kew | A fox killed by the Melbourne hounds. The hunt started at Glen Iris, but it is unclear whether the fox was wild or unbagged. | *The Argus* 17.7.1886: 11 |
| 86/8 | 1886 | Caulfield | 'Mr. Watson provided a fox for the occasion [Melbourne Hunt Club]'; this was captured and killed near Mulgrave | *The Australasian* 17.7.1886: 115 |
| 86/9 | 1886 | Caulfield to Lilydale | A fox caught [Melbourne Hunt Club] | *The Australasian* 24.7.1886: 164 |
| 86/10 | 1886 | ?Beremboke or Ballark | Carcases of sheep poisoned in order to kill foxes | *The Argus* 5.8.1886: 5, 12.8.1886: 5 |
| 86/11 | 1886 | Near Ballarat | Ballarat hounds crossed the scent of a fox, but it escaped | *The Argus* 9.8.1886: 6 |
| 86/12 | 1886 | Natte Yallock, Dunolly district | A large fox shot, the 'first fox ever killed in this district' | *The Argus* 10.8.1886: 6 |
| 86/13 | 1886 | Caulfield | Fox killed [Melbourne Hunt Club] | *The Australasian* 14.8.1886: 307 |
| 86/14 | 1886 | Ballarat district | 'a bagged fox had been shaken but ran into a digger's hole'; I am afraid after all that we shall never have genuine foxhunting in this district' | *The Australasian* 14.8.1886: 308 |
| 86/15 | 1886 | Western district | Large numbers of foxes between Geelong and Ballarat, in Colac and Camperdown districts, and at Daylesford; also one shot 'a long way down' the Loddon River. There has been a 'notable' decline in numbers of rabbits | *The Argus* 19.8.1886: 4-5 |
| 86/16 | 1886 | Tarrengower district | 2 fox terriers found a fox in a deserted mine and killed it | *The Australasian* 21.8.1886: 347 |
| 86/17 | 1886 | Bamganie and Colac | Eyewitness accounts of 2 separate foxes each killing a lamb; many lambs killed recently at these places (This letter to the editor prompted by a previous letter seeking evidence). Litter sizes noted of 5 ('frequently') and 'even' 6 cubs, accounting for their more rapid increase than in England. | *The Argus* 3.9.1886: 10 |
| 86/18 | 1886 | Malikwallok near Beaufort | A fox with 8 cubs captured, worth £1 each | *The Argus* 7.9.1886: 6 |
| 86/19 | 1886 | Mt Elephant (near Camperdown) | Foxes present and killing lambs | *The Argus* 9.9.1886: 7 |
| 86/20 | 1886 | Stawell | Foxes have 'made their appearance in this shire'; a bonus of £2 is offered | *The Argus* 8.12.1886: 8 |
| 86/21 | 1886 | Camperdown district | Foxes becoming 'very plentiful'; fears that they will be very difficult to exterminate should they establish in the Stony Rises and Heytesbury forest. | *The Argus* 14.12.1886: 7 |
| 86/22 | 1886 | Kyneton Shire Council | Parliament petitioned to take measures for destroying foxes (16 August) | Anon. 1935 |
| 86/23 | 1886 | You Yangs | 'The mountains were, years ago [?1881 and 1882, when last visited], the residence of thousands of rabbits, but they seem now to have been got rid of, and a worse pest, foxes, are taking their place' | Anon. 1886 |
| 86/24 | 1886 | Deer Park | 'foxes had become so numerous and troublesome that landowners were only too glad to see the [Melbourne] Hunt [Club] coming' | Ronald 1970: 34 |
| 86/25 | 1886 |  | Foxes becoming 'very numerous and destructive' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 52: 1034 |
| 86/26 | 1886 |  | Introduction into Parliament of a Foxes Extermination Bill, to provide for the extermination of foxes; the second reading lapsed. | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 53: 2020, 2913 |
| 87/1 | 1887 | Heidelberg | Foxes destroying poultry in the northern part of the shire | *The Argus* 11.3.1887: 10 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 87/2 | 1887 | Near Steiglitz | 'Foxes were turned out near the Anakies many years ago, but for a long time made no appearance. Such is not the position now – they are killing lambs in considerable numbers, and at length poisoning has been resorted to with fair success, a score of dead foxes have been found as the immediate result; how many got away to die is uncertain' | *The Australasian* 11.6.1887: 1114 |
| 87/3 | 1887 | Ceres to Burrumbeet Creek | 'a bagman fox that had been shaken somewhere near the end of the run [of the Ballarat hounds]' | *The Australasian* 18.6.1887: 1173 |
| 87/4 | 1887 | Near Ballarat (Haddon) | 'a fox had been shaken, and after a good three-mile gallop was run into [and killed]' | *The Australasian* 25.6.1887: 1221 |
| 87/5 | 1887 | | 'It is said that Mr. Chirnside also imported foxes' [an obituary of Thomas Chirnside] | *The Argus* 27.6.1887: 6; *The Australasian* 2.7.1887: 43 |
| 87/6 | 1887 | Near Miner's Rest | 'a fox had been shaken' but was caught by the Ballarat hounds after 1 mile; 'a bagman fox has very little chance with these hounds' | *The Australasian* 9.7.1887: 69 |
| 87/7 | 1887 | Preston | 'The hounds [Findon Harriers] when out for exercise…came on to a fox…and ended up near Preston, where some cur dogs came in their way, and let Master Reynard escape. The fox, quite exhausted, was seen… why it is that we cannot get fox-hunting while they are so plentiful I cannot understand' | *The Australasian* 20.8.1887: 356 |
| 87/8 | 1887 | Gisborne district | Crown lands are a 'hotbed' of rabbits and foxes | *The Argus* 9.9.1887: 6 |
| 87/9 | 1887 | Near Digger's Rest | 'I have often admired the large flocks of black turkeys that were reared on this farm a few years ago…and on inquiring if turkey-breeding was still kept up, I learned with some surprise that was now almost impossible to keep poultry in this locality owing to the presence of foxes. On one occasion a flock of 60 turkeys were left in the open one night, and next morning…found her birds had all been killed by foxes.' | *The Australasian* 24.9.1887: 587 |
| 87/10 | 1887 | Smeaton | Four young foxes exhibited in a cage at the Smeaton, Spring Hill and Bullarook agricultural show: 'the oddest of all exhibits ever seen at an agricultural show'. | *The Argus* 15.11.1887: 11 |
| 87/11 | 1887 | Near Warrion Hills (Colac district) | 'Foxes were getting rather plentiful about the Warrion paddocks, but last year a raid was made on them, and no less than 28 were killed on the Warrion estate by poison' | *The Australasian* 3.12.1887: 1066 |
| 88/1 | 1888 | Wooloomanata estate (near Lara and You Yangs) | 'saw the body of a fox, which a trapper had caught that morning. He said the thief had eaten six of his trapped rabbits before he got caught himself. The You Yangs fairly swarm with foxes, which kill a certain number of rabbits, but have, within the last half dozen years, developed a taste for lamb of their own killing. I heard of several instances in which they had levied a very heavy toll on the farmers' lambs in this neighbourhood.' | *The Australasian* 11.2.1888: 298 |
| 88/2 | 1888 | Between Redesdale and Bendigo | 'complaints are made concerning the prevalence of foxes in the ranges between Sandhurst and Redesdale. They are making raids on the farms, and destroying poultry' | *The Australasian* 25.2.1888: 410 |
| 88/3 | 1888 | West of Jan Juc | Foxes stated to be present in vast areas of Crown lands | *The Australasian* 24.3.1888: 635 |
| 88/4 | 1888 | Anglesea | 'Of late the stock [of poultry] have been much reduced by the ravages of foxes, which are becoming numerous in this locality. A farmer in Llanberris poisoned two in one week lately.' | *The Australasian* 7.4.1888: 746 |
| 88/5 | 1888 | | 'English foxes have become very common in many parts of…Victoria. They are precisely the same as those followed by the hounds in England, and they are quite as expert as their English ancestors in clearing out hen-roosts and killing rabbits' | *The Australasian* 5.5.1888: 969 |
| 88/6 | 1888 | Ryans Creek, south-east of Benalla | 'The first fox seen in the Benalla district was found poisoned at Ryan's Creek…a fox took the bait [intended for wild dogs]. It was a very large male' | *The Australasian* 9.6.1888: 1250 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88/7 | 1888 | Ivanhoe | 'I should very much like (now that the rabbits are extinguished, and the foxes have deserted the burrows [of rabbits] for the open), to see how these hounds [of the Melbourne Hunt Club] would shape after what I would call their natural game, but there has hitherto been no opportunity of breaking them to fox, and on one or two occasions, when they were tried with the [fox], at Laverton, they did not sufficiently understand what was expected of them, and were, therefore, not enthusiastic in their pursuit of [foxes].' | *The Australasian* 9.6.1888: 1261 |
| 88/8 | 1888 | De Cameron (near Ararat) | 'Foxes have made an appearance in these hills [Pyrenees] of late' | *The Australasian* 16.6.1888: 1307 |
| 88/9 | 1888 | Near Melbourne | Hunting by the Melbourne Hunt Club has become popular in recent years even though the drag is frequently used 'for want of legitimate game within easy reach of residents of Melbourne' | *The Australasian* 23.6.1888: 1372 |
| 88/10 | 1888 | Near Caulfield | Fox ran to earth and lost to Melbourne hounds (Hunt began near Mulgrave) | *The Australasian* 30.6.1888: 1429 |
| 88/11 | 1888 | Laverton | 'Mr. Watson having learned that Laverton contained a large number of foxes, resolved that he would try the covers there on his way to Point Cook'; no foxes seen by Melbourne hounds. | *The Australasian* 7.7.1888: 28 |
| 88/12 | 1888 | Darraweit Guim | 'Rabbits are plentiful, and that greatest pest of all, the fox, is so frequently met with that Mr. Lobb's son often shoots two a day, and has killed three a day. With foxes so numerous, keeping poultry is carried on under great difficulties in Darrewit Guim. Mr. Lobb's fowls roost well up in a tall pine, where they are sheltered from the weather and are safe from prowling foxes.' | *The Australasian* 14.7.1888: 74 |
| 88/13 | 1888 | Mill Park to Darebin Creek | 'No sooner was the pack [Findon Harriers] thrown into the gorse then out went a fine dog-fox with the hounds close in pursuit'; after 3 miles the fox went to earth | *The Australasian* 11.8.1888: 317 |
| 88/14 | 1888 | Mill Park to Plenty River | 'treated to a grand run after the same fox we hunted last Wednesday week, or so it seemed to me, as he started from the self-same cover'; it escaped. 'None of us…sympathise with Mr. Miller in a fear that fox-hunting will spoil his pack [Findon Harriers] for hares'. | *The Australasian* 18.8.1888: 373 |
| 88/15 | 1888 | Sunbury | 'they [Oaklands Beagles] met in strong force, the attraction being a fox which one of the members had secured; but he died the day before the meet, so they had to run a drag for the first half'. | *The Australasian* 18.8.1888: 374 |
| 88/16 | 1888 | Craigieburn | ''foxes are as plentiful as they are, within some few miles of Melbourne…During one of the runs a fox was seen crossing our [Findon Harriers] line…I am an old hunting man now, and have hunted in Victoria for the past 30 years, yet I hope to live to see the day when deer, fox, and hare hunting will be the rule and drags the exception'. | *The Australasian* 25.8.1888: 428 |
| 88/17 | 1888 | Leigh shire | Letter to the editor praising the effectiveness during the past 5 years of the 10s bonus provided by the shire council, supplemented by an equal amount from most of the large landed proprietors; this has minimised losses of lambs and poultry particularly in the last 2 years. The Government needs to take immediate action to check the present alarming increase of foxes. | *The Argus* 29.10.1888: 12 |
| 88/18 | 1888 | Beaufort district | 28 foxes caught in 6 weeks in Ripon Shire | *The Argus* 22.12.1888: 10 |
| 88/19 | 1888 | Baynton | Party with 20 guns shot 1100 rabbits, 50 hares, 2 foxes and 3 kangaroos in one day (4 April) | Anon. 1935 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88/20 | 1888 | ?Villiers district | 'foxes were likely to be even a greater nuisance than rabbits, unless energetic measures were adopted to get rid of them. In some of the forest districts foxes were already so numerous as to be very troublesome and destructive.' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 57: 235 |
| 88/21 | 1888 | | Minister of Lands announced that the Government proposes to deal with foxes under the Rabbit Act by a subsidy to local bodies (Shire Councils) | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 58: 1777 |
| 89/1 | 1889 | | 'Those who introduced the foxes into Victoria little knew the mischief they were doing. The vermin have now become established over a very large area of Victoria'; poultry can't be kept unless securely fenced with wire netting in yards | *The Australasian* 19.1.1889: 118 |
| 89/2 | 1889 | Beaufort district | Foxes have been 'so mischievous' during the last few years; the council has resolved to ask the Government to declare foxes vermin. Council has paid for the destruction of 20 foxes | *The Australasian* 19.1.1889: 118 |
| 89/3 | 1889 | Sandhurst [Bendigo] district | Foxes are becoming plentiful, and have lately found their way to the Whipstick scrub. Marong shire council has been paying a bonus of £1 per head, but this is soon to be reduced to 10s. | *The Argus* 6.4.1889: 10 |
| 89/4 | 1889 | | 'In the more densely populated parts of Victoria the fox is becoming a greater pest to the farmer than ever the dingo was when the country was first occupied. I seldom travel many of the older settled portions of Victoria but I hear of the impossibility of keeping poultry owing to the depredations of foxes' | *The Australasian* 13.4.1889: 762 |
| 89/5 | 1889 | | Melbourne Hunt Club has 'made arrangements for enclosing foxes until required for hunting. The club was prepared to purchase any number of full-grown sound foxes, if delivered at Kirk's Bazaar'; intention of the Club is that 'real game' will be used as the object of the chase | *The Australasian* 4.5.1889: 929 |
| 89/6 | 1889 | Heytesbury forest | Agitation for a bonus for the destruction of dingoes and foxes | *The Australasian* 11.5.1889: 971 |
| 89/7 | 1889 | Coliban Park | 'foxes are beginning to make their presence known in this district'; one was shot several months previously | *The Australasian* 11.5.1889: 971 |
| 89/8 | 1889 | Deer Park | Melbourne Hunt Club has 'a plentiful supply of deer and foxes', kept at Derrimut Park, so as to be available when needed 'with a view of giving our rising generation an idea of fox-hunting, which is considered one of the glories of Old England' | *The Australasian* 11.5.1889: 982 |
| 89/9 | 1889 | Strathfieldsaye district | 'It is somewhat astounding to find that while the depredations committed by foxes are causing an outcry from one end of the country to the other, a shire council could be found who in their corporate wisdom consider that foxes should be protected, the ground for this decision being that foxes are the natural enemies of rabbits'; the basis for this decision is that under the Rabbit Suppression Act, foxes are protected, with an offender liable to a £20 fine if one is killed; In the neighbouring shire of Marong, the council pays £1 per skin | *The Australasian* 25.5.1889: 1074 |
| 89/10 | 1889 | Yannarie | Description of a well-managed poultry roost above ground 'perfectly safe from the attacks of native cats or foxes' | *The Australasian* 25.5.1889: 1075 |
| 89/11 | 1889 | Near Thomastown | A fox disturbed by the Findon Harriers | *The Australasian* 1.6.1889: 1137 |
| 89/12 | 1889 | Ballarat district | A fox was released but the scent was lost by the Ballarat hounds | *The Australasian* 15.6.1889: 1241 |
| 89/13 | 1889 | Pascoe Vale, Glenroy | Foxes recorded | *The Australasian* 22.6.1889: 1293 |
| 89/14 | 1889 | Dowling Forest | 'Mr. J.O. Inglis very kindly supplied [to the Ballarat hounds] a fox'; it took to the water and was killed | *The Australasian* 13.7.1889: 78 |
| 89/15 | 1889 | Muckleford | Foxes appear to be increasing | *The Argus* 24.7.1889: 6 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 89/16 | 1889 | Bendigo/Castlemaine district | Ravages caused by foxes: 130 lambs killed out of one flock containing 205 lambs | *The Argus* 8.8.1889: 8 |
| 89/17 | 1889 | Avoca district | Foxes are becoming numerous, taking poultry | *The Argus* 13.8.1889: 6 |
| 89/18 | 1889 | Castlemaine district | Foxes are increasing so rapidly that they are becoming a serious nuisance, taking poultry | *The Argus* 22.8.1889: 6 |
| 89/19 | 1889 | Wagga Wagga, New South Wales | A fox shot 4 miles from town this week [it is unclear if this fox arrived unaided from Victoria or was released, perhaps for sporting or rabbit control purposes] | *The Argus* 4.10.1889: 6 |
| 89/20 | 1889 |  | 'While there is yet time some energetic steps should be taken by the Government of the country, or by the local municipalities, for the purpose of extirpating the foxes. They promise, in time, to become almost as great a nuisance as the rabbit'; 'In many districts poultry raising is impossible, owing to the depredations committed by the foxes. I have heard of and seen the vermin over a wide extent of Victoria, and I learn that they have been seen in the neighbourhood of Mount Gambier [in South Australia]. Why foxes were introduced into Victoria it is difficult to imagine. They do not even afford good sport with a pack of hounds, and, truth to tell, we are not a hunting people. As the Government permitted this nuisance to be imported (for which there was not the shadow of an excuse in the way of utility), it is only fair the Government should assist in getting rid of it. The farmers had no hand in introducing foxes into Victoria, but it is the farmer's flock and poultry that suffer from their presence' | *The Australasian* 16.11.1889: 1022 |
| 89/21 | 1889 | Dunolly district | Foxes are becoming very numerous | *The Argus* 27.11.1889: 4 |
| 89/22 | 1889 |  | 'It was well known that the Chirnsides introduced foxes into the colony, and they had plenty of property [i.e. financial resources] to enable them to eradicate foxes at their own cost. On the Chirnsides, and not on the State, lay the responsibility of exterminating foxes' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 60: 162 |
| 89/23 | 1889 | Eastern Vermin District [?Kerang] | Only one fox skin presented for payment in this calendar year (In the same period skins of 112 'wild dogs' were presented) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 81: 1216 |
| 89/24 | 1880s | Point Cook | Foxes seen 'during the 'eighties' entering the water in Port Phillip Bay on at least 20 occasions for 3-4 minutes, apparently to divest themselves of fleas | Green 1911 |
| 89/25 | 1889 | South-east of South Australia | 'The foxes in the south-east had multiplied so much that they had become almost as much a nuisance as the dingoes' | *South Australian Parliamentary Debates, Legislative Council* 30.10.1889: 1378 |
| 89/26 | 1889 | South Australia | The wild dog and fox destruction Act, 1889, passed by the Parliament of South Australia, implying that foxes were a recognised pest in South Australia (The Act authorised payment of 10s per scalp). This contrasts with the absence of reports of foxes in the adjoining portion of Victoria. | Act 52 Victoria No. 460 |
| 89/27 | 1889 | South-east South Australia | 'there were districts in the south-east…that were infested with…foxes' | A.D. Handyside 22.10.1889 in *South Australian Parliamentary Debates*, column 1288 |
| 90/1 | 1890 | Stawell district | Foxes are becoming very numerous; one killed measuring 3ft 7in in length | *The Argus* 8.5.1890: 9 |
| 90/2 | 1890 | Woodlands | 'After several ineffectual attempts to find a fox, which had been seen repeatedly during the past week' [opening meet of the Oaklands Hunt Club] | *The Australasian* 24.5.1890: 1004 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 90/3 | 1890 | Moonee Ponds Creek | Fox seen by Oaklands Hunt Club and chased to Broadmeadows where it ran to earth and was lost | *The Australasian* 14.6.1890: 1148 |
| 90/4 | 1890 | Sandhurst [Bendigo] district | 'foxes are plentiful in the district' (opening meet of the Sandhurst hounds) | *The Australasian* 14.6.1890: 1149 |
| 90/5 | 1890 | | 'Australian farmers do not care to encourage the foxes, which are becoming a nuisance in the country districts' | *The Australasian* 21.6.1890: 1193 |
| 90/6 | 1890 | Bullean | First fox hunt of the season by the Melbourne hounds: report that 'a fox had been very troublesome for some time, close to the Yarra'; the fox was viewed several times during the run to Nunawading, but it went to ground | *The Australasian* 28.6.1890: 1245 |
| 90/7 | 1890 | Melbourne (3 miles and 16 miles distant) | 'round about Melbourne, almost within three miles of the city, both hares and foxes abound'; 'both as plentiful as 16 miles out'; Woodlands: a fox crossed the line of the Oaklands hounds but it escaped | *The Australasian* 28.6.1890: 1245 |
| 90/8 | 1890 | Wagga Wagga, New South Wales | A live fox seen near the town | *The Argus* 7.7.1890: 6 |
| 90/9 | 1890 | Marong, Sandy Creek | Meets of the Sandhurst hounds: 'the game was to be a fox'; 'where a genuine fox-hunt is almost assured' | *The Australasian* 12.7.1890: 65 |
| 90/10 | 1890 | Walmer and Muckleford | Despite poisoning with sliced apples, foxes have recently killed many turkeys and fowls | *The Argus* 18.7.1890: 9 |
| 90/11 | 1890 | Williamstown | A 'fox was put over the wall into a paddock'; chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds at Keilor; many present had never seen a fox hunt before | *The Australasian* 26.7.1890: 161 |
| 90/12 | 1890 | Foothills of the Pyrenees/Navarre/ Moonambel | 'I frequently hear of the depredations caused by foxes, which are increasing rapidly in these hills. At many steadings on the western slope they have made attacks on the poultry-yards till it has become necessary to enclose the fowl-yards with high wire netting. Foxes are very frequently heard in the hills along the course of Mountain Creek, but so far as I could learn they have not yet taken to killing lambs. The man who introduced this useless and mischievous vermin has entailed an immense amount of loss and trouble on the farmers of Victoria. While the numbers of the vermin are yet small it would be well to take prompt measures for their extirpation, and unless this is promptly done, in a few years, at their present rate of increase they will fairly swarm over the country. When pinched with hunger, foxes will kill not only lambs but sheep, and they promise to become more mischievous and more difficult to get rid of than were the dingoes of old' | *The Australasian* 9.8.1890: 247 |
| 90/13 | 1890 | Toorak to Mulgrave | Fox chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds | *The Australasian* 9.8.1890: 258 |
| 90/14 | 1890 | Ripon Shire [Avoca/ Navarre/Beaufort] | Increase in foxes paid for by council: 1885 (2); 1886 (29); 1887 (47); 1888 (78); 1889 (166) | *The Argus* 9.8.1890: 10; *The Australasian* 16.8.1890: 294 |
| 90/15 | 1890 | Studley Park to Doncaster | Fox chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds (14 mile run) | *The Australasian* 16.8.1890: 304-5 |
| 90/16 | 1890 | Southern New South Wales; Anakie | Foxes reported across the Murray River; also criticism of the concept that foxes will reduce the abundance of rabbits with the counter-example from Anakie (where foxes most abound, the rabbits are most plentiful) | *The Australasian* 30.8.1890: 393 |
| 90/17 | 1890 | Toorak | Fox seen and chased by the Melbourne hounds and killed near Nunawading after a 9-10 mile run | *The Australasian* 30.8.1890: 405 |
| 90/18 | 1890 | Caulfield | Fox chased by the Melbourne hounds and killed near Booroondara after a 10 mile run | *The Australasian* 6.9.1890: 452 |
| 90/19 | 1890 | Craigieburn | 'The [Oaklands] hounds were laid on to where a fox had been seen'; chased and killed near Donnybrook. 'A fox provided by one of the Yan Yean followers was then turned down'; this was chased to Mickleham and Mt Ridley | *The Australasian* 13.9.1890: 501 |
| 90/20 | 1890 | Laverton | A fox seen, chased for 13-14 miles, and killed by the Melbourne hounds | *The Australasian* 27.9.1890: 598 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 90/21 | 1890 | Shire of Marong | Increasing 'very fast'; 25 recently presented for bonus; since the shire began offering rewards for killing foxes some 18 months ago, 70 have been killed by 2 people in the shire; one farmer found 50 lambs of this year killed in one night, and last year 'a great number' were killed | *The Australasian* 4.10.1890: 633-4 |
| 90/22 | 1890 |  | Melbourne hounds résumé of the season (31 May-20 September): Of 17 runs, 8 were after a stag, 1 after a kangaroo, and 8 after a fox (7 of which were killed). Fox hunting has made an 'extraordinary difference' to the hounds – they know there is a treat at the end. The collection of foxes at the Derrimut deer park enclosure has been a success; the public are requested to send any foxes caught to Kirk's bazaar instead of destroying them | *The Australasian* 4.10.1890: 644 |
| 90/23 | 1890 | Bendigo district | 'foxes are only too plentiful according to the farmers, wire fences and dense scrub prevent us [Sandhurst hounds] hunting them with any hope of success' | *The Australasian* 4.10.1890: 644 |
| 90/24 | 1890 |  | Foxes (and hares) apparently more prolific in Victoria than England: 8 vs 4 young maximum | *The Australasian* 18.10.1890: 730 |
| 90/25 | 1890 | Victoria | During the fiscal year 1889-90, 493 foxes were killed in Victoria | *The Argus* 27.10.1890: 5 |
| 90/26 | 1890 | Point Cook | 'the loss of lambs from foxes was inappreciable. Foxes are often seen in paddocks where thousands of sheep are in lambing; and yet a lamb that has been killed by the vermin is scarcely ever found' | *The Australasian* 1.11.1890: 826 |
| 90/27 | 1890 |  | The fox was introduced 'under the mistaken impression that it would furnish sport to the followers of the hounds' | *The Australasian* 8.11.1890: 879 |
| 90/28 | 1890 | Lexton shire | Council paid for 146 foxes at 10s per full grown and 5s for cubs (19 November); 27 were brought in too late, and a further 50 were destroyed. More than £65 were paid during November and a part of December. Foxes grow larger in Victoria than in England. | *The Australasian* 20.11.1890: 1170 |
| 90/29 | 1890 |  | 'the fox, which promises to be almost as great a nuisance [as the rabbit], was…introduced by private enterprise [and not by the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria]' | Le Souef 1890 |
| 90/30 | 1890 | ?Bourke West electoral district | S.T. Staughton MLA 'knew of a man who had valuable lambs, the produce of imported sheep, literally destroyed by foxes. The councils of some shires refused to pay a capitation fee on foxes which had been destroyed, which was rather hard on the surrounding shires who did pay such a fee' | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 63: 753 |
| 90/31 | 1890 |  | Proclamation protecting quolls, feral cats, and goannas (but not foxes) as enemies of the rabbit under the Vermin Destruction Act of 1890 in 4 boroughs and 114 shires. Declared protected species could not legally be wounded, killed, captured, sold or disposed of. | *Victoria Government Gazette* 82: 4723 |
| 90/32 | 1890 | Muckleford, Walmer, Sandy Creek, Mt Tarrangower, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan | Depredations on turkeys and fowls at Muckleford, Walmer, Sandy Creek and Mt Tarrangower districts; successful poisoning with apples; increase in number of foxes in Bacchus Marsh district; divided opinions as to whether 'the good they undoubtedly do in destroying young rabbits is not counterbalanced by their destruction of sheep and poultry'; 10 foxes seen bailing up a flock of sheep in Ballan district; Ballan Council has approved the proposal that all shires should be compelled to pay 5s/scalp for fox scalps | Anon. 1890 |
| 90/33 | 1890 |  | 'Foxes have spread from the Werribee centre, and are often known by their attacks on poultry as far as Camperdown in the west and Christmas Hills on the north.' | Lucas 1890: 58 |
| 91/1 | 1891 | Warrnambool Shire | 'It was decided to offer 10s. for every fox killed within the shire' | *The Australasian* 17.1.1891: 101 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 91/2 | 1891 | Loddon River (Linwood Grange) | 'Of late the foxes have become so numerous that keeping turkeys is out of the question This is the penalty the country has to pay for the supineness of the Government in allowing private individuals to introduce vermin on the plea that sport would be thereby provided. The result is that a profitable industry like poultry-raising cannot be carried on in any part of the country.' | *The Australasian* 14.2.1891: 295 |
| 91/3 | 1891 | Dunolly | A 'large number' of lambs killed lately by foxes; a 'very large' fox poisoned | *The Argus* 5.5.1891: 5 |
| 91/4 | 1891 | Oaklands/Greenvale | A fox flushed from its cover by the hounds of the Oaklands Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 9.5.1891: 881 |
| 91/5 | 1891 | Near Camperdown, Mt Elephant | 'The continued and rapid spread of foxes throughout the Western district calls for immediate action to repress them. On the plains north of Camperdown…they are specially numerous…Thirteen were seen during a day's ride around Mount Elephant, and at West Bank eight were sighted in a day. On West Bank a few days ago a fine big specimen gave men and dogs a lively run of two miles before it was captured and killed. In one of the paddocks on the same property the other day four young lambs were found dead, and from the nature of the wounds it is almost beyond doubt they wee killed by foxes.' | *The Australasian* 23.5.1891: 966 |
| 91/6 | 1891 | Birregurra | Description of a new method for controlling rabbits; 'it also serves the purpose of getting rid of foxes' | *The Australasian* 23.5.1891: 968 |
| 91/7 | 1891 | Frankston | Young hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club being broken in by hunting kangaroo and fox 'affording them blood' | *The Australasian* 23.5.1891: 976 |
| 91/8 | 1891 | Near Oaklands | A fox 'put down' was captured towards Keilor and killed by the hounds of the Oaklands Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 23.5.1891: 976 |
| 91/9 | 1891 | Cluny (Coliban River), near Kyneton | 'Foxes are becoming very plentiful throughout the country, and they would have made short work of the pheasants'; a galvanised iron fence has been put up around the fowlhouse | *The Australasian* 30.5.1891: 1014 |
| 91/10 | 1891 | Wyuna | 'As many as 15 foxes have been killed on the Wyuna Estate in six months. They are easily run down, and when dead beat they take to a hollow log, and are easily caught [by a fox terrier]' | *The Australasian* 30.5.1891: 1015 |
| 91/11 | 1891 | Berrybank | Foxes 'playing havoc' with young lambs | *The Argus* 4.6.1891: 9 |
| 91/12 | 1891 | Bacchus Marsh | Foxes are estimated to reduce the lambing rate by 25%: not only are lambs killed, but the noses or tails of other lambs are bitten (resulting in them having to be destroyed), and many ewes desert their lambs. | *The Argus* 10.6.1891: 6 |
| 91/13 | 1891 | Yalloak Vale station (Ballarat district) | Foxes causing losses of young lambs during the season of 25% | *The Argus* 10.6.1891: 6 |
| 91/14 | 1891 | None stated | 'A few days ago in one paddock I found 20 or 30 nesting burrows of rabbits which had been robbed and destroyed by foxes…I have noticed that in nearly every instance where poison has been put down for foxes killing lambs, that more stray domestic dogs have been found dead than foxes, and think that in some instances, at any rate, foxes are blamed for damage by stray curs.' | *The Australasian* 13.6.1891: 1112 |
| 91/15 | 1891 | Altona Bay | Foxes in 'great abundance' but ground too dry and hard for hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club to hunt | *The Australasian* 13.6.1891: 1121 |
| 91/16 | 1891 | ?Deer Park | 30 foxes kept in captivity by the Melbourne Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 13.6.1891: 1121 |
| 91/17 | 1891 | Rupertswood (Sunbury) | 'a fox was provided'; this was captured and killed by the hounds of the Oaklands Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 20.6.1891: 1169 |
| 91/18 | 1891 | Near Craigieburn | After running a drag from Glenroy 'a bagged fox was put down'; this was captured and killed by the hounds of the Oaklands Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 27.6.1891: 1217 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 91/19 | 1891 | | 'At present it is impossible to hunt the fox in this country as it is done in England, owing to the facilities the animal has here of getting to ground, but the Melbourne Hunt Club has done all that is possible to get rid of the difficulty by establishing a warren at their deer-park, in which they keep a stock of foxes, which they put down occasionally in places remote from rabbit-holes, so that they are sometimes enabled to show the rising generation a run with a fox extending from four to seven or eight miles, and blooding the hounds on them has had a wonderful effect on the pack.' | *The Australasian* 4.7.1891: 18 |
| 91/20 | 1891 | Ballarat | At the lunch on the day of a meet of the Ballarat Hunt Club, the table had 'a great many foxes, stag's heads, and other trophies from the chase in different parts' | *The Australasian* 4.7.1891: 18 |
| 91/21 | 1891 | Ellesmere | On the Campaspe River, 6 foxes were encountered – of which 4 were killed | *The Australasian* 11.7.1891: 53 |
| 91/22 | 1891 | Bagshot | One fox killed by poisoned bait; foxes 'ravaging' poultry roosts on the Muskerry side of the river | *The Australasian* 11.7.1891: 53 |
| 91/23 | 1891 | Sunbury | 'where a fox had been let down' for the Oaklands hounds to pursue; it was killed after a 4-5 mile run | *The Australasian* 11.7.1891: 65 |
| 91/24 | 1891 | ?Stawell | Query from a reader 'Stawell' seeking information about how to tan fox skins | *The Australasian* 18.7.1891: 105 |
| 91/25 | 1891 | Near Mt Alexander | A cub fox 'started' by the hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club; it was killed after a one mile chase | *The Australasian* 25.7.1891: 164 |
| 91/26 | 1891 | | 'It is not an uncommon thing to hear that so and so, in the Upper Yarra Ranges or the Gippsland, has sold scores or even hundreds of [lyrebird] tails for the sum of half a crown each. What with these poachers, and the foxes introduced by some "villainous" person, and which are fast spreading to the mountain fastnesses, the poor lyre-bird's days would appear to be numbered.' | *The Australasian* 1.8.1891: 235 |
| 91/27 | 1891 | Geelong | After a 4 mile run from Mooralbool to Geelong, a 'fox was given…to the [Ballarat] hounds after the hunt – just to blood them.' | *The Australasian* 8.8.1891: 261 |
| 91/28 | 1891 | Near Rosstown | A fox killed by the Melbourne hounds after a 14 mile run from Caulfield | *The Australasian* 22.8.1891: 357 |
| 91/29 | 1891 | Ravenswood | 'Great destruction' committed by foxes, with lambs and poultry killed and sheep bitten so badly as to necessitate their being slaughtered | *The Argus* 28.8.1891: 6 |
| 91/30 | 1891 | Near Oakleigh | Fox killed by the Melbourne hounds after a run from Heidelberg | *The Australasian* 29.8.1891: 406 |
| 91/31 | 1891 | Near Epping | Fox killed by the Melbourne hounds after a 17 mile run from Croxton Park | *The Australasian* 5.9.1891: 453 |
| 91/32 | 1891 | Near Bendigo | Huntly shire council has decided to preserve fox skins for sale in Melbourne, instead of burning them as is done now | *The Argus* 5.9.1891: 11 |
| 91/33 | 1891 | Kew | Two foxes killed by the Melbourne hounds after a run from Toorak via Glen Iris and Box Hill; the second fox was definitely feral | *The Australasian* 12.9.1891: 501 |
| 91/34 | 1891 | Near Yan Yean | A feral fox put up by the Oaklands hounds but it escaped | *The Australasian* 12.9.1891: 501 |
| 91/35 | 1891 | Craigieburn | Oaklands hounds killed a fox after a 16 mile run from Merri Creek near Preston | *The Australasian* 19.9.1891: 550 |
| 91/36 | 1891 | | 'In districts where foxes are plentiful and rabbits scarce lambs are being destroyed at a rate that means serious loss to the flockmaster. An owner of a small but choice flock of merinoes told me lately that he had lost fully 20 per cent. of this season's lambing by foxes alone. This is a heavy tax to pay for the reckless folly of those who introduced this useless and harmful vermin into the country.' | *The Australasian* 26.9.1891: 586 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 91/37 | 1891 | Near Berwick | Fox chased and captured, but not killed, by the Melbourne hounds after a 12 mile run from Dandenong | *The Australasian* 26.9.1891: 598 |
| 91/38 | 1891 | Near Burrumbeet Lake | A feral fox killed by the Ballarat hounds after a short run | *The Australasian* 26.9.1891: 598 |
| 91/39 | 1891 | | 'the Ballarat Hunt Club does not hunt game' [i.e. it relies on the drag] | *The Australasian* 3.10.1891: 645 |
| 91/40 | 1891 | Camperdown district | 'Foxes are evidently becoming unpleasantly numerous in the Western district…they have increased at a startling rate during the last few years, notwithstanding the war that has been waged against them by private individuals. What is recommended is a united effort on the part of the municipal bodies to effect their destruction. At present a bonus is given in one municipality for fox scalps, while in the neighbouring districts the animals are permitted to increase. The matter is now becoming a serious one, and many a thrifty farmer's wife finds her income seriously curtailed owing to the impossibility of keeping poultry in a neighbourhood infested with foxes.' | *The Australasian* 19.12.1891: 1169 |
| 91/41 | 1891 | Eastern Vermin District | £4 worth of fox skins purchased in this calendar year (In the same period £218 worth of 'wild dog' skins were purchased) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 86: 406 |
| 92/1 | 1892 | | Foxes increasing throughout Victoria and in mallee country promise to become as great a nuisance as wild dogs in former days; c. 7250 foxes were destroyed in Victoria last year (as against c. 1500 wild dogs destroyed) | *The Australasian* 2.1.1892: 6 |
| 92/2 | 1892 | Linton/Clarendon district | An 'alarming' increase of foxes in the mountain ranges | *The Argus* 12.1.1892: 6 |
| 92/3 | 1892 | Mortlake | Dingoes have departed, but their place is being taken by foxes | *The Australasian* 23.1.1892: 150 |
| 92/4 | 1892 | | Foxes are embittering the lives of farmers throughout Victoria. A 5s reward is paid upon production of the entire skin and a statutory declaration of where it was taken. 'Whyte Melville would turn in his grave if he knew that since 1883 no fewer than 1,508 foxes have been shot, poisoned, or trapped in Victoria'. | *The Argus* 28.1.1892: 5; *The Australasian* 6.2.1892: 246 |
| 92/5 | 1892 | Maldon district | 'Foxes are becoming alarmingly numerous in the Maldon district. During the past ten weeks no fewer than 50 have been killed between Ravenswood Estate and Walmer, and, in addition, one resident captured twenty of the destructive pest' | *The Herald* 4.2.1892: 3 |
| 92/6 | 1892 | Merrang estate (Hopkins River/ Muston Creek) | Foxes 'very numerous'; Shire council pays 5s/ skin | *The Australasian* 6.2.1892: 199 |
| 92/7 | 1892 | Near Mt Eccles (Macarthur district) | Foxes increasing to such an extent that the shire council has reduced its bonus for skins from £1 to 10s. | *The Argus* 15.2.1892: 6 |
| 92/8 | 1892 | | Foxes stated to 'attain greater size and strength' in Victoria than in England | *The Argus* 24.2.1892: 9 |
| 92/9 | 1892 | | Introduction of foxes attributed to 'thoughtless or selfish persons'; 'If some energetic steps are not soon taken nothing can prevent the spread of foxes over the whole continent' | *The Australasian* 27.2.1892: 392 |
| 92/10 | 1892 | Deer Park | Drains are set underground so that foxes can be trapped at any time and taken direct to a meet [of the Oaklands hounds]; these foxes should give a better run than the ordinary bagged fox | *The Australasian* 21.5.1892: 969 |
| 92/11 | 1892 | Ivanhoe | Fox in a gorse hedge, chased by hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club towards Epping and killed | *The Australasian* 11.6.1892: 1114 |
| 92/12 | 1892 | Hamilton | 'a fox which the [newly formed Hamilton Hunt] club had had presented to it was let go [at its first meet on 1 June]'; it was chased for only a ½ mile before the dogs killed it | *The Australasian* 11.6.1892: 1114 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92/13 | 1892 | Metcalfe | 'Foxes are becoming very numerous of late, over 200 skins having been paid for by the Metcalfe Council'; payments were then discontinued, resulting in foxes now being less hunted | *The Australasian* 25.6.1892: 1200 |
| 92/14 | 1892 | Hamilton | 'a fox had been let go' at a meet of the Hamilton Hunt Club; it ran for 1½ miles before being killed | *The Australasian* 25.6.1892: 1209 |
| 92/15 | 1892 | Heidelberg to Oakleigh | Fox chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds after an 18 mile run | *The Australasian* 2.7.1892: 17 |
| 92/16 | 1892 | Near Mt Derrimut | Fox chased but not caught by the Melbourne hounds | *The Australasian* 9.7.1892: 65 |
| 92/17 | 1892 | Sunbury | 'foxes are occasionally to be had [by the Oaklands hounds]' | *The Australasian* 9.7.1892: 65 |
| 92/18 | 1892 | Byaduk | Foxes becoming very numerous in the district | *The Argus* 14.7.1892: 7 |
| 92/19 | 1892 | Caulfield (Gardiners Creek) to Booroondarra (Bulleen) | Fox chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds after a 9 mile run | *The Australasian* 16.7.1892: 113 |
| 92/20 | 1892 | South Warragul | Foxes have 'at last' found their way into this part of west Gippsland | *The Argus* 23.7.1892: 8 |
| 92/21 | 1892 | Flemington to Saltwater River | Fox chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds after an 11 mile run | *The Australasian* 6.8.1892: 258 |
| 92/22 | 1892 | Mansfield district | Now troubled with an even greater pest than rabbits: foxes | *The Argus* 26.8.1892: 3 |
| 92/23 | 1892 | Preston to Bundoora Park | Fox hunted to earth (scent lost) by the Melbourne hounds after an 11 mile run | *The Australasian* 27.8.1892: 401 |
| 92/24 | 1892 | Donnybrook to Merri Creek | Several foxes seen by Oaklands hounds; one chased but it went to ground | *The Australasian* 27.8.1892: 401 |
| 92/25 | 1892 | Macarthur | Notwithstanding the high bonus paid by the shire council, foxes are gradually increasing | *The Argus* 2.9.1892: 6 |
| 92/26 | 1892 | Preston to Bundoora Park | Fox chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds after a 12 mile run | *The Australasian* 17.9.1892: 546 |
| 92/27 | 1892 | Newport to Derrimut; Laverton | Two foxes chased (in succession) by the Melbourne hounds | *The Australasian* 24.9.1892: 594 |
| 92/28 | 1892 | Near Hamilton | 'We had a fox, but, as usual, it did not run well, the [Hamilton] hounds running him to earth very soon'; killed | *The Australasian* 24.9.1892: 594 |
| 92/29 | 1892 | | Shire councils have agreed to pay a uniform rate of 2s 6d per fox, to circumvent the problem of largely forested shires (in which foxes breed) not paying a bonus | *The Argus* 29.9.1892: 10 |
| 92/30 | 1892 | | Retrospect of the Melbourne Hunt Club 1892 season: 9 foxes killed; 3 foxes escaped | *The Australasian* 8.10.1892: 690 |
| 92/31 | 1892 | Koroit | Foxes increasing very fast in the district | *The Argus* 4.11.1892: 6 |
| 92/32 | 1892 | Port Arlington | As a test of a new rabbit fumigator, two fox cubs and one old fox were placed into burrows; all survived | *The Australasian* 12.11.1892: 931 |
| 92/33 | 1892 | Koroit | 'Foxes are numerous…There is a fall in geese and turkeys on account of their gradual disappearance' | *The Australasian* 12.11.1892: 932 |
| 92/34 | 1892 | Moorabbin shire (Black Rock, Sandringham, Beaumaris) | Increase of foxes has resulted in killing of poultry 'nearly every night' | *The Argus* 3.12.1892: 9 |
| 92/35 | 1892 | Eastern Vermin District | £10 worth of fox skins purchased in this calendar year (cf £115.10.0 for wild dog skins) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 91: 3712 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92/36 | 1892 | North-Eastern Vermin District [?Swan Hill] | £2 worth of fox skins purchased in this calendar year (cf £137 for native dog skins) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 91: 3712 |
| 92/37 | 1892 | Warracknabeal Vermin District | £3 worth of fox skins purchased in this calendar year (cf £44.5.0 for wild dog skins) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 89: 699 |
| 92/38 | c. 1892 | Near Cape Schanck | No mutton birds had nested here for the past 10 years, 'as the foxes killed them all…scores lying about on the old rookery with their heads bitten off.' | Le Souëf 1902 |
| 93/1 | 1893 | Wantabadgery (near Gundagai NSW) | A fox trapped, the first seen in the district | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 25.1.1893: 8 |
| 93/2 | 1893 | South Warragul | Foxes have 'recently become so numerous that several farmers have had their poultry yards devastated'; a large number of fox skins brought in for the 10s bonus | *The Argus* 13.3.1893: 6; *The Australasian* 18.3.1893: 482 |
| 93/3 | 1893 | | 'Foxes, which were imported…a few years ago for hunting purposes, threaten to become as great a plague and as costly to exterminate as the rabbits'; bounty is 5s/scalp, but the estimated expenditure of £1500 to pay for destruction of foxes is exceeded by the number of scalps presented; therefore reduced to 2s 6d/scalp | *The Australasian* 18.3.1893: 481 |
| 93/4 | 1893 | | 'I believe the animal we have most unfortunately acclimatized in Australia is the mountain fox, and he has been a lamb-killer from the first' | *The Australasian* 6.5.1893: 818 |
| 93/5 | 1893 | Wimmera district | Conference of shires (Stawell, Arapiles, Dimboola, Lowan, Kowee, Wimmera) re taking action for destruction of vermin, including foxes | *The Australasian* 27.5.1893: 962 |
| 93/6 | 1893 | Cranbourne | Farmers and poultry-keepers complaining of depredations of foxes at ?Lyndhurst | *The Australasian* 3.6.1893: 1013 |
| 93/7 | 1893 | Ivanhoe, Bundoora | Two foxes separately released (at Ivanhoe and Bundoora) and killed after chase by Melbourne hounds; one of these was apparently obtained from Warrandyte | *The Australasian* 10.6.1893: 1069 |
| 93/8 | 1893 | Near Hamilton | At opening meet for the year a fox was let loose and was killed by the Hamilton hounds after a 3½ mile run | *The Australasian* 10.6.1893: 1070 |
| 93/9 | 1893 | Essendon to Glendower | Fox released, and chased and killed by the Melbourne hounds | *The Australasian* 17.6.1893: 1116 |
| 93/10 | 1893 | Craigieburn | Two foxes separately chased by the Findon Harriers but both escaped | *The Australasian* 17.6.1893: 1117 |
| 93/11 | 1893 | Pentland Hills near Myrniong | One fox shot, another seen; report of 1000 lambs killed by foxes near Ingleside | *The Australasian* 24.6.1893: 1182 |
| 93/12 | 1893 | Coleraine (Mt Koroit) | Fox apparently released; chased by the Hamilton hounds for 8 miles before escaping | *The Australasian* 1.7.1893: 17 |
| 93/13 | 1893 | McIvor district | 'The rapid increase of foxes…is becoming a very serious matter…will become a menace'; suggests a bounty of 2s 6d be paid by the local shire and 2s 6d paid by the Government; 'the Government of the day neglected its duty in permitting the foxes to be landed alive in Victoria'; because farmers were not responsible for their introduction, it is unfair to ask them to bear the burden of their extermination | *The Australasian* 8.7.1893: 50 |
| 93/14 | 1893 | Ballarat district (Kopke's) | A fox seen on the first run of the Ballarat hounds | *The Australasian* 15.7.1893: 104 |
| 93/15 | 1893 | Pine Lodge | 'foxes are doing a great deal of harm…and appear to be increasing in number. Their depredations are bitterly resented'; poultry losses | *The Australasian* 22.7.1893: 141 |
| 93/16 | 1893 | Gymbowen | Tongues of 70 lambs taken out in one night; foxes seen in several other parts of Goroke and Gymbowen district | *The Australasian* 29.7.1893: 185 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 93/17 | 1893 | Yarra/Plenty River junction to Darebin Creek | Fox chased by the Melbourne hounds but it escaped | *The Australasian* 29.7.1893: 193 |
| 93/18 | 1893 | Ballarat (Black Hill) | A fox let loose but quickly killed by the Ballarat hounds | *The Australasian* 29.7.1893: 193 |
| 93/19 | 1893 | Minyip | Foxes are very numerous | *The Argus* 4.8.1893: 6 |
| 93/20 | 1893 | Macarthur | A fox let go but killed by the Hamilton hounds | *The Australasian* 5.8.1893: 237 |
| 93/21 | 1893 | Victoria | Lyrebird considered to be endangered because of marketing of tails and predation by foxes | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 10.8.1893: 6 |
| 93/22 | 1893 | Wimmera district | The Wimmera Shires Association decided to pay 10s per fox. Vermin destruction boards are subsidised 5s for each fox skin | *The Australasian* 12.8.1893: 270 |
| 93/23 | 1893 | Melton | 'foxes were numerous in the immediate neighbourhood of the township' | *The Australasian* 12.8.1893: 281 |
| 93/24 | 1893 | Goroke | Foxes still present; one caught in a trap but ate its foot off and escaped and was tracked the next day | *The Australasian* 26.8.1893: 359 |
| 93/25 | 1893 | Berwick | Foxes have a habit of making covert c. 3 miles south of railway station | *The Australasian* 23.9.1893: 545 |
| 93/26 | 1893 |  | 16 tails of the lyrebird recently found near a fox's lair 'in the ranges' | *The Argus* 25.9.1893: 5 |
| 93/27 | 1893 | Hamilton | A fox let loose and killed after a 4 mile run by the Hamilton hounds | *The Australasian* 30.9.1893: 545 |
| 93/28 | 1893 | Broadmeadows | Foxes numerous | *The Australasian* 30.9.1893: 589 |
| 93/29 | 1893 |  | Melbourne Hunt Club, 1893 season: 14 foxes were killed, 2 were hunted to earth, and one escaped; on some days deer and hares were chased; 'We have no foxes, as it has been the master's custom to exhaust the stock of those animals towards the end of each season, so as to have only wild ones with which to commence the following season' | *The Australasian* 14.10.1893: 677 |
| 93/30 | 1893 | Pyramid Hill | Foxes reported to be making nightly raids on the hen roosts of farmers, with one farmer losing > 30 fowls in one night | *The Australasian* 25.11.1893: 935 |
| 93/31 | 1893 | Warrnambool | Increase of foxes is causing anxiety to many landowners; reports of large numbers of lambs killed | *The Argus* 8.12.1893: 6 |
| 93/32 | 1893 |  | 'The sparrows, rabbits, and foxes are terrible examples of indiscriminate and…hasty and dangerous foreign introductions' | French 1893: 182 |
| 93/33 | 1893 | Eastern Vermin District | £24 worth of fox skins purchased in this calendar year (cf £62 expended on wild dog skins) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 92: 632 |
| 93/34 | 1893 | Warracknabeal Vermin District | £3 worth of fox scalps purchased in this calendar year (cf £27 expended on wild dog skins) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 92: 1294 |
| 93/35 | 1893 | Melton | 'Mr. Hubert Miller took over the pack [Findon Harriers] in 1893, and he well remembers the first occasion on which he hunted the Melton country with the hounds. A fox – a rarity then – took the field away in great style' | Smith 1930 vol. 2: 122 |
| 93/36 | 1893 | Millicent district; Naracoorte district; Bordertown district; Tatiara district (SA) | 'a few'; 'my men saw a fox about'; 'Foxes have been getting troublesome on the border lately'; foxes increasing | Vermin-Proof Fencing Commission 1893: 33, 43, 47, 51 |
| 94/1 | 1894 | Goroke | 'Foxes are on the increase, several having been caught near the township.' | *The Australasian* 27.1.1894: 145 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94/2 | 1894 | Gippsland | 'each shire and borough [to] pay…5s. per head for foxes' | *The Australasian* 3.3.1894: 361 |
| 94/3 | 1894 | Gymbowen district | A trapper to be employed to capture dingoes and foxes so that sheep farming can be continued | *The Australasian* 10.3.1894: 409 |
| 94/4 | 1894 | Bagshot | A fox shot, and when opened was found to have been mainly eating grapes | *The Argus* 10.4.1894: 7; *The Australasian* 14.4.1894: 626 |
| 94/5 | 1894 | Nhill | Formation of a wild dog and fox club; 10s bonus to be offered per skin | *The Argus* 30.4.1894: 6 |
| 94/6 | 1894 | Pyramid Hill | 'Foxes are reported to be on the increase, and have been seen close to the township. Notwithstanding this the Gordon Shire Council have decided to reduce the bonus offered for foxes' scalps killed within the shire boundary from 15s. to 5s. per head.' | *The Australasian* 5.5.1894: 761 |
| 94/7 | 1894 | | Fox skins worth 6s-12s per dozen on the Melbourne wool and station produce market | *The Argus* 7.6.1894: 7 |
| 94/8 | 1894 | Rupanyup | Foxes numerous and troublesome during the last few weeks, with up to 100 lambs killed | *The Argus* 8.6.1894: 6 |
| 94/9 | 1894 | Yan Yean/Plenty Ranges | Foxes in large numbers; The Municipal Association is seeking amendment of the Vermin Destruction Act of 1890 so as to make it compulsory for all shire councils and the Metropolitan Board of Works to pay a uniform bonus of not less than 5s. for the destruction of each fox. | *The Argus* 8.6.1894: 4; *The Australasian* 9.6.1894: 977 |
| 94/10 | 1894 | Shepparton | 'Foxes are growing very troublesome; they are increasing in numbers, and of late have robbed hen-roosts on the outskirts of town.' | *The Australasian* 9.6.1894: 979 |
| 94/11 | 1894 | Wedderburn | Proof of slaughter of fox predation: 'the tongue of the lamb is eaten out before death, when the mouth closes, and seldom any visible outward signs of attacks are present.' | *The Argus* 11.6.1894: 6 |
| 94/12 | 1894 | Wedderburn | Claim by 2 sheep-farmers that they have not lost any lambs to foxes; instead the increased yield of lambs is attributed to the extra quantity of grass available following the removal of rabbits by foxes | *The Argus* 11.6.1894: 6 |
| 94/13 | 1894 | Hamilton | 'Foxes are very numerous in the district now, and though the country in which they usually abide is not suitable for hunting live game [by the Hamilton hounds], still good sport is obtained by slipping a trapped one during the course of each run.' One recently sent into the kennels from Mt Napier. | *The Australasian* 16.6.1894: 1033 |
| 94/14 | 1894 | Ferntree Gully | 2 foxes recently killed by a farmer's greyhounds | *The Australasian* 7.7.1894: 16 |
| 94/15 | 1894 | Broadford | Foxes increasing in this district | *The Argus* 10.7.1894: 6 |
| 94/16 | 1894 | Brim | 'if strict measures were not taken to eradicate the pest in that district [Brim Springs] the place would be over-run with foxes, making sheep-breeding impossible, and unless prompt measures were taken there would be a repetition of the rabbit plague.' | *The Australasian* 21.7.1894: 93 |
| 94/17 | 1894 | | 'Slowly but surely that imported pest the fox is invading every part of Victoria. They are now known for the Upper Murray in the north-east to the mallee fringe in the west.' Criticism of different bounties offered by rural municipalities is offered. A conference of shires resolved that 'foxes were a public nuisance' and requested Parliament to pass an Act compelling all shires to offer a 5s. bonus per fox, of which Government is to pay half. The 'culpable negligence' of the Government was blamed for permitting the introduction of the fox. | *The Australasian* 28.7.1894: 138, 7.11.1894: 770 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94/18 | 1894 | Pyramid Hill | 'Foxes are becoming numerous about the hills.' Losses of lambs reported, with 30 killed in one night at Mt Hope | *The Australasian* 28.7.1894: 139 |
| 94/19 | 1894 | | Methods for poisoning foxes provided by readers | *The Australasian* 4.8.1894: 185, |
| 94/20 | 1894 | Keilor | Foxes 'plentiful' here, but not detected by hounds of the Oaklands pack | *The Australasian* 11.8.1894: 237 |
| 94/21 | 1894 | Korumburra | 'Foxes are beginning to make their appearance. I hear of two being poisoned in the neighbourhood.' | *The Australasian* 18.8.1894: 271 |
| 94/22 | 1894 | Bulleen & Templestowe | 'Foxes have recently become so numerous…as to be a positive nuisance to farmers of that district, who were desirous of having the hounds [of the Melbourne Hunt Club] out with a view of either destroying or banishing the pests' | *The Argus* 20.8.1894: 7; *The Australasian* 25.8.1894: 325 |
| 94/23 | 1894 | Euroa district | Foxes becoming numerous | *The Argus* 28.8.1894: 6 |
| 94/24 | 1894 | Dartmoor | Foxes taking lambs | *The Argus* 6.9.1894: 7 |
| 94/25 | 1894 | Terang | 'The fox may now be classed as one of the permanent animals of the colony. So secure a footing has it attained that it is not likely to be displaced for the next decade at least' | *The Australasian* 6.10.1894: 581 |
| 94/26 | 1894 | | Retrospect of the 1894 season of the Melbourne Hunt Club: 6 foxes killed, 6 escaped, as well as 9 deer killed, 2 taken and 5 escaped (Hares were not enumerated). | *The Australasian* 6.10.1894: 590 |
| 94/27 | 1894 | | When it was known that foxes had been turned loose for the purpose of providing sport to hunting men, its extirpation by those who introduced it should have been insisted on. 'If persistent efforts were made throughout the country for a period of say six months there is a possibility that the foxes might be exterminated' | *The Australasian* 7.11.1894: 770 |
| 94/28 | 1894 | Bet Bet shire | Last month a bonus on 225 fox skins was paid, with 127 of these (worth £31.5.0) killed by one man | *The Australasian* 7.11.1894: 770 |
| 94/29 | 1894 | Dunolly | A white fox caught, the first known in the district | *The Argus* 10.11.1894: 7 |
| 94/30 | 1894 | North-Western Vermin District [?Dimboola] | Bonuses paid on 450 wild dogs, 7 pups, and 54 foxes for the calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 95: 575 |
| 94/31 | 1894 | Warracknabeal Vermin District | £2.10.0 worth of fox scalps purchased in this calendar year (cf £19.10.0 expended on wild dog skins) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 95: 576 |
| 94/32 | 1894 | Eastern Vermin District | £56.5.0 worth of fox scalps purchased in this calendar year, for the first time exceeding the sum (£49.10.0) expended on wild dog skins | *Victoria Government Gazette* 95: 962 |
| 94/33 | 1894 | North-Eastern Vermin District | £74.10.0 expended on destruction of wild dogs and foxes (not separated) in this calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 95: 1515 |
| 94/34 | 1894 | Corowa district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board announced that from 1.6.1894 it will pay for the scalp and skin of every full-grown fox (£1) and whelp (10s) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1894: 3957 |
| 94/35 | 1894 | Moulamein district (NSW) | Proclamation by Governor authorising that the provisions of the Pastures and Stock Protection Act be applied to the destruction of foxes for 5 years from 18.8.1894 | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1894: 5285 |
| 94/36 | 1894 | Albury district (NSW) | Proclamation by Governor authorising that the provisions of the Pastures and Stock Protection Act be applied to the destruction of foxes for 5 years from 18.9.1894 | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1894: 5953 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94/37 | 1894 | Albury district (NSW) | Three fox scalps (£1 each) presented during the calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1895: 882 |
| 94/38 | 1894 | Deniliquin district (NSW) | 49 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Journal of the Legislative Council of New South Wales* 54(2): 36 (1895) |
| 95/1 | 1895 | Goroke | 'A number of wild dogs have been caught, and a few foxes' | *The Australasian* 23.2.1895: 344 |
| 95/2 | 1895 | Warracknabeal district | 'In some parts of the country foxes are evidently on the decline' | *The Australasian* 16.3.1895: 485 |
| 95/3 | 1895 |  | 'Within the last five or six years foxes have become very numerous in some parts [not specified] of the colony…foxes do much more good [in depredating young rabbits] than harm'; criticism of the 'fox-skin business' as 'stupid' | *The Australasian* 6.4.1895: 634 |
| 95/4 | 1895 | Goroke | 'Foxes have made havoc with the poultry, a Mrs. Bray losing 15 turkeys in one night, and great losses have occurred with fowls roosting under trees. If the foxes are not got under soon lambs will be a thing of the past, so many were killed last year when the foxes were not half so numerous.' | *The Australasian* 25.5.1895: 969 |
| 95/5 | 1895 | Sheep Hills | Foxes appear to be increasing; dingoes have been virtually exterminated | *The Argus* 20.6.1895: 6 |
| 95/6 | 1895 | Euroa | 'Foxes and wild dogs are becoming a pest' | *The Australasian* 29.6.1895: 1209 |
| 95/7 | 1895 | Goroke | 'a number of foxes have been killed, and still they come'; wild dogs killing sheep | *The Australasian* 29.6.1895: 1209 |
| 95/8 | 1895 | Nathalia | Foxes prevalent in and around | *The Argus* 3.7.1895: 6 |
| 95/9 | 1895 | St Helens | Foxes predating sheep; 9 poisoned with strychnine | *The Australasian* 20.7.1895: 105 |
| 95/10 | 1895 | Yarraberb (near Bendigo) | A fox's lair containing 20 half-grown rabbits | *The Argus* 5.9.1895: 6 |
| 95/11 | 1895 | Poowong & Jeetho | 'Foxes are fast becoming a great nuisance in the district'; fears that sheep farming will become impossible if selectors do not poison them; 13 killed during the last few weeks. | *The Australasian* 14.9.1895: 489 |
| 95/12 | 1895 | Traralgon | Foxes becoming 'so plentiful' in the district | *The Argus* 25.9.1895: 6 |
| 95/13 | 1895 | Broadford | Fox den containing 9 cubs | *The Argus* 17.10.1895: 6 |
| 95/14 | 1895-6 | Victoria | 24 000 fox scalps worth £1500 paid for by the shire councils of Victoria | Anon. 1902 |
| 95/15 | 1895 | Eastern Vermin District | Reward paid for the destruction of 139 foxes (£122.17.6) and only 9 wild dogs (£27) in the calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 98: 804 |
| 95/16 | 1895 | North-Western Vermin District | Bonuses paid for the destruction of 101 foxes, 545 wild dogs and 25 pups in the calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 98: 805 |
| 95/17 | 1895 | Warracknabeal Vermin District | Purchase of dog scalps (£134) and fox scalps (£13.5.0) in this calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 98: 1206 |
| 95/18 | 1895 | North-Eastern Vermin District | Amounts expended for this calendar year on the destruction of dogs (£28) and foxes (£7) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 98: 1800 |
| 95/19 | 1895 | Albury district (NSW) | 2 fox skins presented to the Pastures and Stock Protection Board for payment at £1 each (for the calendar year) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1896: 846 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 95/20 | 1895 | Moulamein district (NSW) | 2 fox skins presented to the Pastures and Stock Protection Board for payment at £1 each (for the period Jul-Dec) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1896: 5881 |
| 95/21 | 1895 | Corowa district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Board paid for 3 foxes (at 20s/scalp) and 5 fox cubs (at 10s/scalp) for the calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1896: 943 |
| 95/22 | 1895 | Wentworth district (NSW) | Traces first seen in 1895 on Moorna station; first one trapped in 1897 | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 12.5.1897: 4, 5 |
| 95/23 | 1895 | Border of South Australia and Victoria | 'the fox seemed to be fast pressing on our boundaries' [implying that foxes were present close to the border but had not yet crossed it from Victoria]. | Sutton 1935: 102 |
| 95/24 | 1895 | Goulburn (NSW) | 2 foxes killed in district; others seen | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 9.8.1895: 6 |
| 95/25 | 1895 | South-east of South Australia | Foxes 'spreading rapidly in the south-east' | *South Australian Parliamentary Debates House of Assembly* 14.11.1895: 2188 |
| 96/1 | 1896 | Tatura | 'Foxes, despite frequent and vigorous onslaught by our farmers, are still increasing. Many complaints have recently been made as to havoc in poultry-yards' | *The Australasian* 18.1.1896: 105 |
| 96/2 | 1896 | South Gippsland (Drouin & Poowong districts) | 'Hares and foxes are very plentiful in some parts already.' 'Foxes are very plentiful and daring…this year, and every farmer complains of their incursions. At every meeting of the Drouin council from 10 to 20 scalps are sent in…Mr. G. Pratt, of Poowong, reports that foxes have destroyed over 100 head of poultry this year, although his fowlyard was enclosed with a 7 ft. slab fence. The slabs were close together, but the foxes eat their way through the fence wherever the wood was soft or sappy.' | *The Australasian* 29.2.1896: 393, 21.3.1896: 533 |
| 96/3 | 1896 | | 'No doubt, owing to the numerous foxes and armies of wild domestic cats abroad, the…plain wanderer [plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus*] is likely first to become extinct amongst our smaller game birds' | *The Australasian* 14.3.1896: 501 |
| 96/4 | 1896 | Learmonth | Ewe killed by a fox, with the blood having been sucked through a small hole made in the throat | *The Argus* 27.3.1896: 6 |
| 96/5 | 1896 | Melbourne | A fox pursued along Elizabeth Street into Collins Street, where it was captured | *The Argus* 6.4.1896: 5 |
| 96/6 | 1896 | Wagra & upper Murray district | 'A full-grown fox was run down and killed by a selector last week. This makes the fifth that has been caught this year or so. No doubt they will become a nuisance in a few years' time, for if they once get a footing in some of the surrounding rough country, it will be almost impossible to exterminate them. So far, all that have been captured were males.' | *The Australasian* 25.4.1896: 777 |
| 96/7 | 1896 | Goroke | Foxes abundant: one farmer lost nearly 100 turkeys in one night | *The Australasian* 25.4.1896: 777 |
| 96/8 | 1896 | Cobram | 'Foxes are becoming numerous' | *The Australasian* 16.5.1896: 918 |
| 96/9 | 1896 | Poowong & Jeetho | 'Foxes are again to be heard occasionally…Last year we kept them down well' | *The Australasian* 20.6.1896: 1159 |
| 96/10 | 1896 | Somerville [?Somers] | District has been 'greatly pestered' with foxes for the past 3 months | *The Argus* 22.6.1896: 6 |
| 96/11 | 1896 | Goroke | Foxes 'have become so numerous lately that there is some talk of reducing the bonus [from 5s.] to 2s. 6d.' | *The Australasian* 27.6.1896: 1209 |
| 96/12 | 1896 | Harrow Shire | > 300 foxes paid for by Kowree Shire | *The Australasian* 25.7.1896: 153 |
| 96/13 | 1896 | Barnawartha | 'Besides killing lambs and poultry, foxes are very destructive to native game, particularly curlews.' | *The Argus* 10.8.1896: 6 |
| 96/14 | 1896 | Deniliquin (NSW) | Foxes increasing; 182 killed since 1 January, including 38 killed since 1 July | *The Argus* 18.8.1896: 6 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 96/15 | 1896 | Pomborneit | Although foxes are numerous, they do not appear to molest the lambs to any extent, probably on account of the plentiful supply of rabbits and wildfowl obtainable | *The Argus* 11.9.1896: 6 |
| 96/16 | 1896 | Victoria | Presence of the fox 'entirely due to the Government permitting the importation of the vermin and their being set at liberty in the colony' | *The Australasian* 17.10.1896: 729 |
| 96/17 | 1896 | c. 60 miles from Melbourne | 'I am sure from observation that the foxes not only rob [the lyrebirds'] nests but catch and destroy the hens… The dingo was not half so destructive to these lovely birds as are the foxes.' | *The Argus* 6.11.1896: 6 |
| 96/18 | 1896 | Hamilton district | Foxes increasing fast around Hamilton. For the year ending 30 September, Dundas Shire Council paid £127 for 1016 fox scalps. | *The Australasian* 28.11.1896: 1045 |
| 96/19 | 1896 | | Claim by the Chief Inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act that the good that foxes do in controlling rabbits (with each fox estimated to destroy c. 300 rabbits each year) 'far outweighs' the harm done in killing lambs and poultry (Troublesome foxes can be poisoned during the lambing period and poultry can be properly housed). He recommended to the Minister that the bonus paid for destruction of foxes (worth £1500 in the previous year) be discontinued, as foxes are equally numerous in shires not paying the bonus as in those that are. This proposal was criticised by many farmers. | *The Australasian* 5.12.1896: 1097; *The Argus* 8.12.1896: 6, 9.12.1886: 5, 11.12.1896: 6, 26.12.1896: 5, 21.1.1897: 6, 2.3.1897: 6 |
| 96/20 | 1896 | Wimmera Shire | 'the fox pest is assuming alarming proportions' | *The Australasian* 5.12.1896: 1097 |
| 96/21 | 1896 | South Gippsland (Cape Patterson, Inverloch, Powlett River, Foster) | 'I think the fox is the greatest enemy [stubble quail] have' | *The Australasian* 5.12.1896: 1109; also Campbell nd vol. 2: 724 |
| 96/22 | 1896 | Geelong district | The increase of foxes has caused the almost complete extinction of the bustard and plover | *The Argus* 11.12.1896: 6 |
| 96/23 | 1896 | Wimmera Shire | Wimmera Shire Council in the last 12 months has paid for > 500 fox skins, 200 of which were taken in the last 2 months | *The Australasian* 12.12.1896: 1149 |
| 96/24 | 1896 | Balranald district (NSW) | Proclamation issued by the Governor under Section 30 of the Pastures and Stock Protection Act, based on a petition received from the Board of Directors of the sheep district of Balranald, to apply this Act to the destruction of foxes in the district for a period of 2 years from 15.10.1896 [thus implying that foxes had recently arrived in the district]. | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1896: 7537 |
| 96/25 | 1896 | Albury district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 2 fox skins (£1 each) for calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 371 |
| 96/26 | 1896 | Moulamein district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 5 fox skins (£1 each) for the period January-June | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 290 |
| 96/27 | 1896 | Moulamein district (NSW) | Notice published that the Pastures and Stock Protection Board will pay a bonus of 20s for each full-grown fox, as from 27.5.1896 | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1896: 4610 |
| 96/28 | 1896 | Dubbo (NSW) | One young fox trapped – 'most unusual' | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 21.8.1896: 6 |
| 97/1 | 1897 | Wagra & upper Murray district | 'Foxes are becoming a very great nuisance here. Farmers all round complain of losing turkeys and geese. We hear of one being shot occasionally, but there always appears to be another to take its place.' | *The Australasian* 12.6.1897: 1167 |
| 97/2 | 1897 | Tatura | 'It is now generally acknowledged that foxes are on the increase' | *The Australasian* 19.6.1897: 1221 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97/3 | 1897 | Staughton Vale | In the past fortnight c. 50 lambs of a flock of 300 killed by foxes. A lamb poisoned with strychnine killed 30 foxes. | *The Australasian* 10.7.1897: 63 |
| 97/4 | 1897 | Mansfield district | 'foxes are being destroyed by the poisoned fruit laid for rabbits and the rabbits that have died from taking poison.' | *The Australasian* 10.7.1897: 63 |
| 97/5 | 1897 | Mornington shire | A 'large increase' of foxes | *The Argus* 12.8.1897: 6 |
| 97/6 | 1897 | Langwarrin | 30 fox scalps collected | *The Australasian* 14.8.1897: 323 |
| 97/7 | 1897 | Hastings | 'The fox pest…is fast becoming so great…It is a common thing to see them running and hunting in twos and threes and in day light, and the destruction of young lambs by them is far greater this year than in the previous seasons.' | *The Australasian* 21.8.1897: 379 |
| 97/8 | 1897 | Poowong & Jeetho | 'foxes are getting very numerous and bold. They are frequently seen in the day time, and have destroyed a good many lambs.' Although they take baits readily, many farmers do not lay baits. 'If the foxes are allowed to increase here at the rate they have for the last few years lamb raising will have to be abandoned in our district.' | *The Australasian* 21.8.1897: 383 |
| 97/9 | 1897 | | 'the greatest challenge of late years in the hunting-field [for the Findon Harriers] is due to the large increase of foxes in the country. During the last two or three years such sport has rewarded the followers of the hounds as never befel their lot previously, and it can hardly be doubted that hunting in the colonies is now fast approaching the high standard set in old England.' | *The Australasian* 21.8.1897: 391 |
| 97/10 | 1897 | Spring Bank near Charlton | A vixen and 7 cubs found in a log | *The Argus* 16.9.1897: 6 |
| 97/11 | 1897 | Shires of Wimmera, Lowan and Arapiles | 'rapid and alarming increase of foxes' | *The Argus* 22.10.1897: 6 |
| 97/12 | 1896-7 | | 22 088 foxes destroyed, with shires paying 2s 6d each per scalp securing more scalps than those paying 5s. | *The Australasian* 26.2.1898: 453 |
| 97/13 | c. 1897 | Heytesbury forest | A fox extracted the young from 5 nests of *Acanthiza pusilla*, and also preyed on young *Dacelo novaeguinae* in low stumps | Hall 1897: 57 |
| 97/14 | 1897 | Warracknabeal Vermin District | Purchase of dog scalps (£28.10.0) and fox scalps (£24.7.6) in this calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 104: 453 |
| 97/15 | 1897 | North-Western Vermin District | Bonuses paid for the destruction of 329 foxes, 242 wild dogs and 7 pups in the calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 104: 619 |
| 97/16 | 1897 | Northern Vermin District | First year in which expenditure on vermin included foxes | *Victoria Government Gazette* 104: 718 |
| 97/17 | 1897 | Moulamein district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 40 fox skins for the calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 5889, 1898: 2360 |
| 97/18 | 1897 | Narrandera district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 2 adult fox skins and one cub skin for the calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 5484, 1898: 721 |
| 97/19 | 1897 | Moulamein district (NSW) | Notice published that the Pastures and Stock Protection Board will from July pay a bonus of 10s [instead of £1] for each full-grown fox with the brush [tail] attached [an indication of the increasing abundance of foxes] | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 4357 |
| 97/20 | 1897 | Albury district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 16 adult fox skins and 7 cub skins for the calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1898: 1228 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97/21 | 1897 | Corowa district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 67 fox skins for the calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1898: 611 |
| 97/22 | 1897 | Wagga Wagga district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 2 fox skins for the calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1898: 1122 |
| 97/23 | 1897 |  | Minister of Lands considering whether to continue with the 1s 3d bonus paid by Government for the fox; 81 of 122 shires consulted approved of its continuation. | *The Australasian* 27.3.1897: 597, 601; 15.5.1897: 955; 5.6.1897: 1111 |
| 97/24 | 1897 | Rylston, Bylong; Gulgong, Wollar (NSW) | Sheep killed by foxes; foxes caught | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 20.9.1897: 7 |
| 97/25 | 1897 | Balranald district (NSW) | 16 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Journal of the Legislative Council of New South Wales* 57: 1209 (1898) |
| 97/26 | 1897 | Braidwood district (NSW) | 3 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Journal of the Legislative Council of New South Wales* 57: 1209 (1898) |
| 98/1 | 1898 | Wagra & upper Murray district | 120 young turkeys taken in one night by foxes | *The Australasian* 1.1.1898: 8 |
| 98/2 | 1898 | Cranbourne district | The number of fox scalps brought into Cranbourne 'quite alarming' | *The Australasian* 22.1.1898: 179 |
| 98/3 | 1898 | Rosebud | Complaint that more fowls were killed last year by foxes than the value of a landowner's rates | *The Argus* 4.2.1898: 9 |
| 98/4 | 1898 | Goroke district | Foxes 'on the increase'; some poultry farmers have given up keeping turkeys | *The Australasian* 5.2.1898: 291 |
| 98/5 | 1898 |  | Shires with mainly cattle or dairy farming do not try to exterminate foxes, which are viewed as beneficial through their impact on rabbits; shires that predominantly run sheep do offer a bonus on fox scalps | *The Australasian* 5.2.1898: 291 |
| 98/6 | 1898 | Nhill district | Foxes becoming 'very numerous in some parts'; many lambs killed; now a greater pest than dingoes | *The Australasian* 4.6.1898: 1235 |
| 98/7 | 1898 | Carrajung district | Foxes very numerous, causing 'heavy losses' of fowls | *The Argus* 7.6.1898: 6 |
| 98/8 | 1898 | Moyhu & Greta | Foxes are 'increasing rapidly…One farmer has lost more than 100 turkeys within 18 months, while…many sheep [have been] killed by them.' | *The Australasian* 25.6.1898: 1403 |
| 98/9 | 1898 | Stawell shire (St Arnaud district) | 50 lambs killed by foxes in 2 nights | *The Australasian* 25.6.1898: 1403 |
| 98/10 | 1898 | Oakleigh | 'The wisdom shown in selecting the present site, near Oakleigh, for the kennels [of the Melbourne Hunt Club], becomes ever more apparent, for we never have difficulty in finding a fox.' | *The Australasian* 16.7.1898: 131 |
| 98/11 | 1898 | Goulburn Valley | 'Foxes are becoming very troublesome to sheep-owners throughout the Goulburn Valley district.' | *The Australasian* 6.8.1898: 287 |
| 98/12 | 1898 | Immediately north of Murray River (NSW) | Pastoralists 'are beginning to suffer from the depredations of the foxes, which have of late crossed the river in considerable numbers.' Nearly 300 lambs killed; others report losses of 10-15% of lambs. Now poisoning 'with a fair amount of success' | *The Australasian* 6.8.1898: 288 |
| 98/13 | 1898 |  | Ground parrot 'likely soon to become extinct' [in Victoria] because of clearing and predation by foxes and feral cats | *The Australasian* 27.8.1898: 479 (A.J. Campbell) |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 98/14 | 1898 | | Opinion of F. Allan, Chief Inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act, is that foxes are decreasing (evidenced by the number of bonuses paid in 1895-6 (>24 000], 1896-7 [c. 23 000] and 1897-8 [16 000]. This is supposed to result from the profitable rabbit meat export trade: Trappers are thus active in all parts of Victoria except Gippsland, causing rabbits to decrease. The entry of the fox 'into new districts has given rise to the assumption that the fox pest is increasing.' | *The Australasian* 1.10.1898: 735 |
| 98/15 | 1898 | Craigie and Bombala (NSW) | Fox seen predating turkeys; foxes increasing in the district | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 15.10.1898: 10, 23.11.1898: 8 |
| 98/16 | 1898 | Blackburn | A fox seen 25' above ground in a fork of a eucalypt; the stem sloped at c. 15° from the vertical | Hall 1898 |
| 98/17 | 1898 | Pine Plains station | Malleefowl decreasing on account of foxes, wild dogs and feral cats; a fox seen caught in a trap baited with strychnine | Campbell AG 1900 |
| 98/18 | c. 1898 | Heytesbury forest | 'the fox, that terrible bird exterminator, plays havoc in the breeding season. That Wren *[Malurus cyaneus]* is lucky which does not have to rear a second brood' | G. Graham in Hall 1907: 87 |
| 98/19 | 1898 | Warracknabeal Vermin District | Purchase of fox scalps (£15.12.6) and dog scalps (£4) in this calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 107: 263 |
| 98/20 | 1897 | North-Western Vermin District | Bonuses paid for the destruction of 69 foxes, 63 wild dogs and 7 pups in the calendar year | *Victoria Government Gazette* 107: 719 |
| 98/21 | 1898 | Moulamein district (NSW) | From 11.5.1898, Pastures and Stock Protection Board will pay only 5s per fox scalp (with skin and brush) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1898: 4154 |
| 98/22 | 1898 | Moulamein district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid a bonus on 53 fox skins for the period from January to June | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1898: 5873 |
| 98/23 | 1898 | Lucindale (SA) | 'foxes are again becoming very troublesome' | *Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia* 1: 967 (1898) |
| 98/24 | 1898 | Molong (NSW) | Foxes seen | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 5.8.1898: 5 |
| 98/25 | 1898 | Dubbo district (NSW) | 16 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 3: 677 (1900) |
| 98/26 | 1898 | Jerilderie district (NSW) | 46 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 3: 677 (1900) |
| 98/27 | 1898 | Young district (NSW) | 9 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 3: 677 (1900) |
| 99/1 | 1899 | | Vermin Destruction Amendment Bill passed by Parliament: it authorises municipalities to pay a bonus of 2s 6d, or any higher sum at their destruction, per fox to the destroyers, and pledges the Government to repay 1s 3d per head to the municipalities. This policy makes all shires contribute equally towards the destruction of foxes. | *The Argus* 17.8.1899: 5, 10 |
| 99/2 | 1899 | Stratford | Foxes evidently present, as a 5s bonus is offered for each fox skin | *The Argus* 6.9.1899: 8 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99/3 | 1899 | Omeo district | First fox skin exhibited; smaller marsupials began to decline | *The Argus* 18.10.1929: 11 |
| 99/4 | 1899 | | Foxes able to jump or scramble 6-8' up a burnt-out tree and kill nesting welcome swallows | Hall 1900 |
| 99/5 | Late 1890s | | 'Of late years a great change has occurred in the hunting field, owing to the large increase of foxes in the country, with the results that such sport has rewarded the followers of the hounds as was never before experienced' | Smith 1903 vol. 2: 122 |
| 99/6 | 1899 | Cooma (NSW) | A large fox shot | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 15.8.1899: 3 |
| 99/7 | 1899 | Condobolin (NSW) | Foxes present | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 17.11.1899: 3 |
| 99/8 | 1899 | Cooma district (NSW) | 2 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 4: 327 (1900) |
| 99/9 | 1899 | South-east of South Australia | Foxes 'very bad in the south-east' | *South Australian Parliamentary Debates Legislative Council* 20.12.1899: 373 |
| 00/1 | 1900 | Brisbane Ranges | 'I fear [malleefowl] have been driven out of the locality or destroyed by foxes' | *The Australasian* 29.4.1899: 926; also Campbell nd vol. 2: 699 |
| 00/2 | 1900 | | 'What with the increase of foxes, domestic wild cats, and other vermin, I do not think this favourite bird [banded rail] is so often seen as in former years, in Victoria, at all events' | *The Australasian* 29.4.1899: 926; also Campbell nd vol. 2: 741 |
| 00/3 | 1900 | | Foxes contributing to likely decline of lyrebirds | Campbell nd vol. 1: 512 |
| 00/4 | ?1900 | | 'Two of the largest [kangaroo rats]…were met with around my camps in Victoria far more frequently some few years ago than would now be possible. Their disappearance is principally due to increased settlement, hunting dogs, and, in a very large degree, to continual persecution by foxes…I know…that the partial extermination of ground game in the bush at the present time, to say nothing of several past years, is attributable, to an amazing extent, to imported foxes, animals now distributed throughout the wildest forest tracts, as well as settled areas, in countless thousands! Only those who are naturally observant regarding indications suggestive of the presence of wild life in unselected country, and who venture far into the ranges can fairly estimate what a grip foxes have obtained in the vast unsurveyed regions known as Forest, or Crown Lands…In consequence of their depredations among lambs, and, whenever possible, poultry, [they]…are shot, hunted trapped, and poisoned at all times of the year. But their numbers do not seem to perceptibly decrease…It is quite a common occurrence to see these bush foxes lying among huge branches of slanting-boled, rough-barked trees in forest districts, their remarkable climbing powers often calling forth exclamations of astonishment from the uninitiated. It can, then, be readily understood that, having such a ubiquitous foe to contend with, small game, and ground-feeding birds, are in continual danger of losing their lives'; 'The introduction, and rapid spread, of the British fox in the bush is accountable for a heavy death-rate among young wombats; and, alas! many other young animals which constitute the fast-disappearing fauna of bush-lands contiguous to settled districts' | Lane nd: 53-54, 74 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 00/5 | ?1900 | Reedy Creek | The 'almost entire disappearance of the ground birds and…the absolute disappearance of all kinds of kangaroo rats, bandicoots, &c. Many years ago this bush simply teemed with animal life.' Also comment on disappearance of possums, curlews, quail, and wonga pigeons following arrival of the fox. | *The Argus* 9.9.1910: 5 |
| 00/6 | 1898-1900 | Myrtleford | 'Kangaroo rat' [*Bettongia gaimardi*, Southern bettong] was frequently met with in 1898-1900, but they or their grass nests are now absent. The writer blames the fox. | *The Argus* 2.9.1910: 5 |
| 00/7 | ?1890s | Barnawartha | In c. 1890 kangaroo rats were 'fairly numerous' in this district but with the coming of the fox they 'soon disappeared' | *The Argus* 16.5.1930: 12 |
| 00/8 | 1900 | Lithgow (NSW) | First fox killed | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 19.9.1900: 8 |
| 00/9 | 1900 | Bombala district (NSW) | 2 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 6: 498 (1901) |
| 00/10 | 1900 | Goulburn district (NSW) | 1 fox presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 6: 498 (1901) |
| 00/11 | 1900 | Wentworth district (NSW) | 14 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 6: 498 (1901) |
| 00/12 | 1900 | Dandenong Range | The lyrebird 'now becoming very rare…owing to the spread of settlement and the ravages of foxes' (This is the only species of 185 bird species discussed that linked the fox with decline) | Keartland 1900: 94 |
| 01/1 | 1901 | Marong | 'An increase of the bonus given to municipalities for the destruction of foxes in order that further inducement to get rid of them might be held out was urged by a deputation from the shire of Marong'; the Minister of Lands stated that only the brush and scalp was required to obtain the bonus – the skin could be sold from 2s to 5s. | *The Herald* 4.9.1901:8 |
| 01/2 | 1901 | Blue Ranges, near Taggerty | Fox tracks 'plainly seen in many places' | Le Souef 1901 |
| 01/3 | 1901 | Dandenong Range | c. 30 tails, mostly of female lyrebirds, found in the lair of a fox, and presumably indicating predation of birds sitting on the nest; subsequently this record was localised to Bayswater | North 1901: 20; North 1909b: 325 |
| 01/4 | 1901 | Nap Nap station, near Hay (NSW) | 'Foxes are now appearing in large numbers' | Royal Commission 1901 (cited in Lunney 1994: 230) |
| 01/5 | 1901 | Hindmarsh Island (SA) | One fox trapped 'a few days ago' | *Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia* 5: 258 (1902) |
| 01/6 | 1901 | Moss Vale (NSW) | 1 fox killed | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 23.8.1901: 8 |
| 01/7 | 1901 | Berrima district (NSW) | 1 fox presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 4: 517 (1903) |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01/8 | 1901 | Coonabarabran district (NSW) | 1 fox presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 4: 517 (1903) |
| 01/9 | 1901 | Queanbeyan district (NSW) | 4 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 4: 517 (1903) |
| 01/10 | 1901 | Lucindale district (SA) | 'During twenty years, since first appearance in the South-East [i.e. 1881], foxes have become numerous everywhere…The fox also kills poultry, game, small birds, and eats their eggs. Many of these birds are insectivorous, and should be protected. This destruction is now proceeding at an alarming rate, as is evidenced by the remains of such birds lying about.' | *Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia* 4: 1021 (1901) [Feuerheerdt 1901] |
| 02/1 | 1902 | Kongwak | Foxes present (but not rabbits); living in hollow or rotten logs after tearing the decayed wood out of the latter | Kitson 1902 |
| 02/2 | 1902 | Bathurst district (NSW) | 7 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 6: 498 (1903) |
| 02/3 | 1902 | Condobolin district (NSW) | 6 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 6: 498 (1903) |
| 02/4 | 1902 | Tamworth district (NSW) | 1 fox presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 6: 498 (1903) |
| 03/1 | 1903 | Stratford | 17 foxes killed near Lee Brooke in the past 2 months | *The Argus* 11.8.1903: 7 |
| 03/2 | 1903 | Edgeroi (Narrabri district, NSW) | 1 fox shot | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 14.7.1903: 7 |
| 03/3 | 1903 | Armidale district (NSW) | A fox seen | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 1.9.1903: 7 |
| 04/1 | 1904 | Bruthen district | Foxes (and rabbits) increasing 'to an alarming extent' | *The Argus* 30.9.1904: 6 |
| 04/2 | 1904 | Longwarry | Fox den containing remains of fowls, ducks, parrots, rabbits, lambs, and snakes | *The Argus* 2.12.1904: 9 |
| 04/3 | 1904 | Omeo | The kangaroo rat was last seen in 1904, 'a few years after the fox made his appearance in this part of the State.' Previously they were often met with in pasture close to cover (This species built a nest usually between 2 tussocks). Bandicoots have also declined. | *The Argus* 30.5.1930: 12 |
| 04/4 | 1904 | | The Zoological and Acclimatisation Society 'may likewise claim exemption from the blame which poultry farmers and others attach to those who are responsible for the acclimatization of the fox in Victoria, this inveterate enemy of the fowl-yard having been brought hither by private persons more intent upon the sport to be obtained from hunting the "vermin" than upon conserving the interests of those who are occupied in cultivating the soil, the difficulties and drawbacks with which are sufficiently numerous and formidable without any addition being made to them for the sake of promoting the pastimes of a section of the community' | Smith 1904: 283 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 04/5 | 1904 | Kanmantoo (SA) | Foxes increasing and killing sheep and poultry | *Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia* 7: 692 (1904) |
| 04/6 | 1904 | Eurobodalla and Yowrie (NSW) | A fox seen | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 21.4.1904: 5 |
| 04/7 | 1904 | Goonoo Goonoo and Dungowan (Tamworth district, NSW) | Foxes seen | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 20.9.1904: 5 |
| 05/1 | 1905 | South Gippsland | Foxes (and settlers) are 'wiping out' lyrebirds now | *The Argus* 24.3.1905: 7 |
| 05/2 | 1905 | | Since the bonus on the fox was introduced in 1895, £17 804 have been paid. The reduction paid in 1904-5 (£1 312, relative to £3k in 1901-2) is attributable to the high price paid for skins. Foxes are 'as numerous at the present time as ever they were' | *The Australasian* 9.9.1905: 605 |
| 05/3 | 1905 | Western district (?Mt Emu, ?Camperdown) | 'When the fox first came to our district [1880s], many attempts were made to rear the cubs as pets, but now a pet fox is quite a rarity, although young ones are fairly easy to secure' | *The Australasian* 11.11.1905: 1191 |
| 05/4 | 1905 | Daylesford | Local extinction of native and tiger cats is attributed partially to fox predation: 'The foxes certainly did account for a great many, as the number of legs, feet, and tails I have often seen about their lairs proved'. 'The tiger cat seems to have vanished also. None of these animals were a match for the wily fox, and easily become his prey'. | *The Australasian* 9.12.1905: 1404 |
| 05/5 | 1905 | Ranges to the north of Mt Baw Baw | Foxes present; 'destroying the Lyre-birds in great numbers [and] had developed a liking for grasshoppers'; these foxes 'smaller and greyer' than the ordinary fox | Kitson 1905 |
| 05/6 | 1905 | Southern Gippsland | 'foxes have become so numerous that all ground nesting birds are in a fair way to extinction.' | Froggatt 1906 |
| 05/7 | ?1905 | Wilson Promontory | 'Foxes and hares have obtained a footing here, the former of which is becoming fairly numerous among the sand dunes along parts of the coast. Rabbits have not yet found their way here' | Kershaw 1906 |
| 05/8 | 1905 | Kapunda (SA) | Increase in the abundance of foxes in this district | *Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia* 8: 617 (1905) |
| 05/9 | 1905 | Morphett Vale (SA) | Several foxes seen in district; losses of lambs reported | *Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia* 8: 695 (1905) |
| 05/10 | 1905 | Mount Pleasant (SA) | 'Serious' losses of lambs and poultry caused by foxes | *Journal of Agriculture and Industry of South Australia* 8: 696 (1905) |
| 05/11 | 1905 | O'Halloran Hill (SA) | Club formed to counter the alarming spread of foxes | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 8.6.1905: 3 |
| 05/12 | 1905 | Nairne (SA) | 2 trappers caught 14 foxes in one burrow | *South Australian Parliamentary Debates House of Assembly* 24.10.1905: 557 |
| 05/13 | 1905 | Boolcarrol station (Wee Waa district, NSW) | Foxes seen | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 20.6.1905: 4 |
| 05/14 | 1905 | Broken Hill, Albemarle station (NSW) | Foxes caught | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 21.7.1905: 9 |
| 05/15 | 1905 | Kayuga (Muswellbrook district, NSW) | Foxes reported | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 7.8.1905: 5 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 06/1 | 1906 | | Fox threatening the extinction of the lyrebird | Steel 1906: 615 |
| 06/2 | 1906 | | 'Last year…the municipalities of Victoria paid for the destruction of 48,000 [foxes]. It is obvious that there must be more of these animals remaining in the bush than were destroyed…In another 27 years [1932] if these are not checked, and taking the same ratio of increase, there will be 192,000,000 foxes in the land. But, alas! where will some of our native birds be? Swept off the face of the earth, and all for *sport*.' | Anon. 1906 |
| 06/3 | 1906 | Truro (SA) | 'foxes are getting plentiful, and are a source of constant worry to sheepowners'; 5 seen together at Glen Turret station | *The Advertiser* 16.5.1906: 7 |
| 06/4 | 1906 | Nairne (SA) | Foxes seen at 4 localities in this district | *The Advertiser* 16.5.1906: 7 |
| 06/5 | c.1906 | Suggan Buggan district, Snowy River, north-east Gippsland | Rapid decline in rock wallabies *(Petrogale penicillata)* 'from about 1906 or 1907, and well before the first war [1914] they had practically disappeared. It is generally thought amongst the locals that shooting reduced the numbers, but that foxes really killed them out' | Wakefield 1954: 202-203 |
| 07/1 | 1907 | | Known prey of foxes listed: bustard, Cape barren goose, magpie goose, black swan, all duck species | *The Australasian* 18.5.1907: 1197 |
| 07/2 | 1907 | Heytesbury Forest | Foxes becoming numerous; not unusual to see a dozen or more during the day; taking rabbits out of traps | *The Australasian* 15.6.1907: 1401 |
| 07/3 | 1907 | Kongwack district | Foxes 'becoming a menace to the sheep-farmers…as there are no rabbits for them to prey on the newly-born lambs are constantly being taken'; also poultry | *The Australasian* 15.6.1907: 1403 |
| 07/4 | 1907 | Camperdown district | Foxes killing large numbers of lambs | *The Australasian* 22.6.1907: 1466 |
| 07/5 | 1907 | Wimmera district | Foxes numerous, killing young lambs | *The Australasian* 17.8.1907: 389 |
| 07/6 | 1907 | Western district | Declines of the lapwings *Vanellus miles* and *V. tricolor* through fox predation not yet apparent | *The Australasian* 19.11.1907: 1210 |
| 07/7 | < 1907 | Barwon-leigh | Evidence that foxes do not take only ground game: report of a fox in a magpie or raven nest in a buloke tree c. 25' tall; the tree was on a slant for c. 20' but the stem that held the nest was c. 7' straight up | Le Souef nd=1907 |
| 07/8 | 1907 | Bourke (NSW) | Foxes numerous | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 25.9.1907: 7 |
| 07/9 | 1907 | Goodooga (NSW, near Queensland border) | First record of the fox | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 23.9.1907: 4 |
| 07/10 | 1907 | Hoxton Park (Liverpool district, NSW) | Poultry killed | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 25.10.1907: 4 |
| 07/11 | 1907 | Cook's River (NSW) | Poultry killed | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 25.11.1907: 4 |
| 07/12 | 1907 | Cobar district (NSW) | 19 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 98 (1908) |
| 07/13 | 1907 | Merriwa district (NSW) | 11 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 98 (1908) |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 07/14 | 1907 | Tenterfield district (NSW) [near Queensland border] | 1 fox presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 98 (1908) |
| 07/15 | 1907 | Upper Hunter district (NSW) | 2 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 98 (1908) |
| 07/16 | 1907 | Warialda district (NSW) | 9 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 98 (1908) |
| 08/1 | 1908 | | 'Owing to the destruction of [lyrebirds] by foxes on the mainland, they are threatened with extermination, and in order to prevent this it is proposed to import some into Tasmania' | Elliott 1908 |
| 08/2 | 1908-9 | Near Cobden | '[S]evere repression' of foxes enabled pipits 'to bring up their broods in safety…a thing…not seen since the advent of the fox'; the fox also preys on young and adult magpies | Stephen 1909 |
| 08/3 | 1908 | Western district | Ground parrot 'becoming very scarce…where once it was plentiful.' Attributed to fox predation. | Anon. 1908 |
| 08/4 | 1908 | Glenn Innes (NSW) | Appearance of the fox noted | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 21.11.1908: 9 |
| 08/5 | 1908 | Glenn Innes (NSW) | 3 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 108 (1909) |
| 08/6 | 1908 | Inverell district (NSW) | 2 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 108 (1909) |
| 08/7 | 1908 | Narrabri district (NSW) | 10 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 108 (1909) |
| 08/8 | 1908 | Nepean & Hawkesbury district (NSW) | 15 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 108 (1909) |
| 09/1 | 1909 | Rochester | Foxes are 'frequently so dainty in their choice of fare that they eat only the tongues' of lambs | *The Argus* 9.7.1909: 8 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/2 | 1909 | | Introduction of the fox attributed [incorrectly] to 'acclimatising enthusiasts'; surplus killing of lambs and poultry noted; 'all birds which do not roost in trees fall a more or less easy prey to the fox'; predation particularly noted on lyrebirds, bustards, brolgas, Cape Barren geese, black swans and other waterfowl | *The Argus* 28.8.1909: 4; also Anon. 1909 |
| 09/3 | 1909 | | Foxes are destroying brush turkeys *Alectura lathami* in Cunnamulla district, Queensland and malleefowl in north-west New South Wales | North 1909a: 143 |
| 09/4 | 1909 | | 'introduced direct from Europe, came a disastrous and prolific population of the Black and the Brown Rats, the Common Mouse, the Rabbit and the Hare, and, worst of all, the Fox.' | Lucas & Le Souëf 1909: 4 |
| 09/5 | 1909 | ?Dandenong Range | Increased frequency of high nests of lyrebirds 'in late years' attributed to 'the ravages of Foxes' | J. Gabriel in North 1909b |
| 09/6 | ?1909 | Tallangatta | The writer is puzzled by the disappearance since c. 1909 of the kangaroo rat, bandicoot, curlew and other species | *The Argus* 11.1.1929: 5 |
| 09/7 | 1909 | Hunter's Hill (suburban Sydney, NSW) | Poultry killed | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 7.1.1909: 11 |
| 09/8 | 1909 | Helensburgh (NSW) | Poultry killed | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 27.4.1909: 5 |
| 09/9 | 1909 | Armidale district (NSW) | 12 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 138 (1910) |
| 09/10 | 1909 | Moree district (NSW) | 21 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 138 (1910) |
| 09/11 | 1909 | Sydney district (NSW) | 2 foxes presented for payment of bonus by Pastures and Stock Protection Board | *Joint Volumes of Papers Presented to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales* 1: 138 (1910) |
| 10/1 | 1910 | | The Chief Inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act had recently published a report in which the fox was regarded as doing more good in preying on and keeping down the rabbit pest than is generally recognised. However, the writer disagrees, noting their impact on bird species living and nesting on the ground, in particular bustard, ibis and heron. The fox's 'extraordinary adaptability' and surplus killing of prey is highlighted. | *The Argus* 19.12.1910: 6 (editorial) |
| 10/2 | 1910 | Cobbora district, NSW | 'About eight or ten years ago [stone plover] were very numerous throughout the district; since then I notice that they are getting less and less each year, and it seldom I ever hear one now. I can only put the decrease down to the increase of the fox.' | Austin 1918 |
| 11/1 | 1911 | Underbool | A very large male dingo poisoned; part of the foreleg of a freshly-killed fox was found in the gut | *The Argus* 22.12.1911: 5 |
| 11/2 | 1911 | | Foxes noted as a threat to the bustard and lyre bird | Lucas & Le Souef 1911: 120, 260 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/3 | 1911 | | The malleefowl 'is doomed to early extinction, for the fox has discovered the rich store of food in the eggs… It is hoped that…Kangaroo Island [South Australia], where foxes are unknown, will prove a suitable sanctuary for them.' The 'egg (or the young one) [of the lyrebird] is often taken by the fox' | Leach 1911: 16-17, 114 |
| 11/4 | 1911 | | 'My advice to every shooting boy is to kill a fox on sight wherever you can find him. They are making havoc with our native game…Unless the fox is kept down, the sanctuaries, which are greatly increasing in number throughout Victoria, cannot achieve their purpose.' | Macdonald 1911: 78, 79 |
| 11/5 | 1911 | | The brushtail possum is 'largely a ground feeder and plant eater…and so falls an easy prey to the…fox' | Macdonald 1911: 80 |
| 12/1 | 1912 | | Pessimistic assessment of the future of the lyrebird, with discussion of evidence of depredation by foxes; 'It is hard to say what he [the fox] will not kill from insects up to wallabies. | *The Argus* 16.8.1912: 5 |
| 12/2 | 1912 | Wilson Promontory (Darby River) | Fox present | Kershaw 1913 |
| 12/3 | 1912 | Tiega (near Ouyen) | Foxes, by digging out and eating eggs, contributing to the gradual extinction of the malleefowl in Victoria | Barrett 1919: 85 |
| 12/4 | Between 1906 &1912 | Bungonia, NSW | Kangaroo rats were a pest until 1906 but then gradually vanished. The disappearance of this species 'coincided with the advent of the fox, but possibly rabbit poisoning had some effect.' | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 26.7.1912: 6 |
| 12/5 | 1912 | Belltrees (Scone district), NSW | Wallabies, kangaroo rats, and possums have 'almost disappeared.' 'Five years ago these animals were present in thousands, shooters and trappers paying large sums for the right of collecting skins. Now, in spite of the close season, the animals mentioned have practically disappeared, owing to the depredations of foxes.' | White 1917 |
| 13/1 | 1913 | | Impact of fox depredation on pipits, quail, black swans, brolgas (plentiful 30 years earlier) and possums. Foxes can swim or wade into swamps and prey on waterbirds. | *The Argus* 29.3.1913: 7 |
| 13/2 | 1913 | Bulga district | Foxes very plentiful; increasing scarcity of paddymelon, wallaby, kangaroo rat, mountain opossum, koala, and lyrebird attributed to foxes | *The Argus* 11.7.1913: 5 |
| 13/3 | 1913 | Hospital Creek (?near Lake Tyers) | 'The paddymelon is now practically extinct in this district, for I have not seen one for years, and I am afraid the fox is the cause of it.' | *The Argus* 25.7.1913: 6 |
| 13/4 | 1913 | Western district | A detailed account of depredations of foxes on ducks, quail, swans, bustard (no longer exists in the district), Cape Barren goose (which over summer in this district), white-fronted chats, pipits and possums; 'the fox is rapidly killing out most of our native animals and birds'; 'the foxes have destroyed most of the young broods [of quail], and have killed a good few of the sitting females'; 'My experiences go to show that there is not a bird except the emu, and not an animal except the larger kangaroos, that is exempt from the toll of the fox.' | *The Argus* 26.7.1913: 9 |
| 13/5 | 1913 | Ercildoune | Possums, especially the ringtail, often found lying under trees with the fore part missing; this is attributed to foxes. No evidence of predation by foxes on waterbirds. | *The Argus* 1.8.1913: 5 |
| 13/6 | 1913 | | A burrow containing a fox with 6 cubs, and many feathers. Foxes do kill ducks on swamps. | *The Argus* 8.8.1913: 5 |
| 13/7 | 1913 | | 'The introduction of the European fox to Australia was a huge blunder. The damage it has done to our fauna cannot be over-estimated' (A.J. Campbell) | *The Argus* 16.8.1913: 8 |
| 13/8 | 1913 | Geelong district | Decline of stone plover and bustard in previous 30 years partly attributed to predation by foxes | Belcher nd: 102-3, 171 |
| 13/9 | 1913 | | Sheep farmers have not taken active measures against the fox because of its rabbit-hunting habits, but poultry farmers have had to either shut up at night all poultry in wired-in yards or abandon this type of farming. Foxes are also bringing about the destruction of the larger ground-nesting birds | Froggatt 1913: 41 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13/10 | 1913 | | 'of comparatively recent years an inveterate foe has arisen in the form of the acclimatized fox, and it is only a question of time when the trackless Mallee will be invaded by its ever increasing and advancing enemy, who will sweep [the malleefowl] out of existence in the more civilized parts.' | North 1913: 159-160 |
| 13/11 | 1913 | | Bustards being killed by foxes | North 1913: 240 |
| 13/12 | c.1913 | Near Scone, NSW | Scarcity of stone plover and spur-winged plover attributed to the presence of foxes, 200 of which were poisoned on Belltrees estate 'one winter' | Campbell 1913 |
| 14/1 | 1914 | Crooked River district, north Gippsland | Fox absent 15 years ago; 'to-day the valley teems with both [the rabbit and fox]; 'Indirectly, he [Man] is responsible for the sad havoc now being wrought amongst our indigenous birds [especially the lyrebird] by the fox he introduced to chase, red-coated and horsed, across country with a pack of hounds' | O'Donoghue 1914 |
| 14/2 | 1914 | | 'Mr. G. A. Keartland said that the fox and the gun were undoubtedly responsible for the rapid disappearance of the Lyre-bird.' | *Victorian Naturalist* 30: 218 |
| 15/1 | 1915 | Coolabah district, NSW | Malleefowl now rarely seen because of foxes; 'formerly they were very numerous' | Froggatt 1916 |
| 16/1 | 1916 | Grampians | Rarity of brolga attributed to fox predation | *The Argus* 30.12.1916: 4 |
| 16/2 | 1916 | Holbrook, near Poowong | 'In the early days…the majority of Lyre-Birds' nests that came under my notice were built on the ground… then came the fox, and gradually the practice of building up in the air increased, till at the present time the majority of nests now found in this district are built where the fox cannot get at them' | Cook 1916 |
| 17/1 | 1917 | | The fox 'is one of the most formidable enemies of all birds nesting or sleeping, either upon or near the ground'; the following species were noted as being impacted: bustard, plover, duck, brolga | Froggatt 1917: 76 |
| 17/2 | 1917 | Wilson Promontory National Park | Fox 'being kept well in check by systematic poisoning' | Kershaw 1917 |
| 18/1 | 1918 | Moree district, NSW | Stone plover and spur-wing plover 'practically killed out' by the fox | Brenan 1918 |
| 18/2 | 1918 | Phillip Island | Foxes destroying hundreds of mutton birds at their burrows | Gabriel 1919 |
| 19/1 | 1919 | Phillip Island | 'it was generally believed that the foxes gained access to the island by swimming across the eastern channel from San Remo to Newhaven.' Doubt also expressed as to whether foxes swam to the island; rumoured that they were released at a place 'far removed' from the narrowest passage separating the island from the mainland. Fox predation recorded on mutton birds; a reward of £1 per head offered. | *The Argus* 22.2.1919: 6; *Victorian Naturalist* 35: 168 |
| 19/2 | 1919 | | 'The greatest agent working towards the extermination of the native animals is the fox' | Hoy 1920 |
| 19/3 | 1919 | Bayswater | Remains of 36 lyre-birds' tails were found recently in and around the log in which foxes lived. | G.A. Keartland in *Victorian Naturalist* 35: 168 |
| 19/4 | 1919 | southern South Australia | 'The introduction of the fox into Australia has proved one of the most regrettable importations to this continent, and the more I travel about, particularly in the South, the more I am impressed with the fact that unless suitable reserves are set aside for our native fauna and flora many of the interesting animals and birds of Australia will become extinct in a short period.' [GR Laffer in a debate about setting aside the western end of fox-free Kangaroo Island as a nature reserve; species mentioned are the 'Toolaitchie' *Macropus greyi*, malleefowl, pelican, and curlew] | *South Australian Parliamentary Debates House of Assembly* 14.8.1919: 418-9 |
| 19/5 | 1919 | Wandandian (Nowra district, NSW) | 'The greatest agent working towards the extermination of the native animals is the fox…The foxes, which are everywhere numerous, after killing off the native mammals…' | Short and Calaby 2001: 538 |
| 20/1 | 1920 | Phillip Island | Mutton birds have 'suffered severely' from foxes. Their extinction considered likely 'in a few years'. Ten foxes shot over 4 days. Black swans and ducks also being preyed on. | *The Argus* 7.5.1920: 7; J. Gabriel in *Victorian Naturalist* 36: 162 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20/2 | 1920 | | 'in many of our mountain gullies [the fox] will doubtless lead to the extermination of…the Lyre-bird' | Keartland 1920 |
| 20/3 | 1920 | South Gippsland | 'The habit of building near the ground is proving disastrous to the lyre birds since the fox has made its appearance in Gippsland' | Committee of the South Gippsland Pioneers' Association 1920: 41 |
| 21/1 | 1921 | | The introduction of foxes noted as one of 5 factors contributing to 'the extermination of an appreciable part of the fauna' | Spencer 1921 |
| 21/2 | 1921 | Dandenong Range | Lyre-birds, 'before the arrival of man and the introduction of foxes, usually perched and built their nests within ten feet or so of the ground, have now learned to ascend further from danger'. Recently 12-15 birds were seen roosting at least 100 feet from the ground. 'They leap or fly from bough to bough till they have reached the desired height'. | *Victorian Naturalist* 37: 141-2 |
| 22/1 | 1922 | | 'These troublesome animals [foxes] were imported into the Western District by private persons, and have become a curse; many of our smaller native animals are being exterminated by them'; [kangaroo rats *Bettongia gaimardi*] are becoming very scarce in Victoria, largely due to that pest, the Fox' | Le Souef 1922: 31, 41 |
| 22/2 | 1922 | | These once common animals *[Dasyurus viverrinus]* have mysteriously decreased in numbers during the past twenty years; they once killed poultry' | Leach 1922: 390 |
| 22/3 | c.1922 | Vereker Range, Wilson Promontory | 'Foxes and rabbits have…obtained a footing' | Daley 1924 |
| 23/1 | 1923 | | Introduction of the fox regarded as one of the most important causes of the increasing scarcity of some native fauna; 'The Fox is by far the greatest menace that our wild animals are faced with. It is widespread, uncontrollable, and reaches places where man has not penetrated.' | Le Souef 1923 |
| 25/1 | 1925 | Comboyne Plateau, NSW | Rufous bettong *(Aepyprymnus rufescens)*, which 'appears to be fast becoming extinct'; 'years ago…a great pest to farmers'. This impending local extinction is attributed largely to the fox, which is 'fighting hard to get a hold here and seems to be slowly succeeding' | Chisholm 1925 |
| 25/2 | 1925 | South Australia | 'The fox has spread through South Australia with great rapidity, more particularly during the past twenty years…to the student of the Australian fauna the fox represents nothing but calamity. It is quite true that in many parts of this State the marsupial fauna had begun to disappear before the advent of the fox; but no one can doubt that the fox is bringing about the closing scenes with great rapidity.' | Wood Jones 1925: 357-8 |
| 26/1 | 1926 | | 'Before the advent of the fox the rat-kangaroos *[Bettongia, Potorous]* were extremely numerous, so much so that special measures had to be taken by settlers to protect crops and haystacks, but now many species throughout a large part of their range are very rare, and presumably in a short time they will be a thing of the past – wherever the fox can penetrate.' | Le Souef & Burrell 1926: 233 |
| 29/1 | <1929 | ?NSW | 'For years past the English foxes have been decimating the smaller fur-bearing animals, such as the kangaroo rats, paddymelons, and wallabies. The foxes kill off the young ones, and in the case of the kangaroo rats they pounce on the old ones in their nests, which are built on the ground.' | *The Sydney Morning Herald* 26.3.1929: 5 |
| 30/1 | 1930 | | 'The fox is a serious factor in the [decline] of the Bandicoot and other small marsupials' | Lewis 1930 |
| 36/1 | <1936 | | 'The marsupials…live on the surface and they are the easiest prey to the predacious fox. They would only be safe on islands or in patrolled netted enclosures. Even our [Royal] National Park [south of Sydney, NSW] is not a safe sanctuary in this respect. | AS Le Souef in *The Sydney Morning Herald* 23.9.1936: 22 |

## Results

Contemporary accounts confirm that foxes were first brought to Victoria in the 1840s and again in the 1860s. In the accounts discovered, there is general consensus that foxes were imported by sportsmen (records 60/2, 60/3, 65/1, 65/2, 69/1, 79/12, 83/1, 84/17, 85/17, 90/27, 90/29, 93/3 in Table 1) and not by acclimatisers (records 64/3, 04/4 in Table 1). Some foxes were hunted wild and others were let loose on the day for the purposes of hunting with hounds (records 45/1, 45/2, 45/3 in Table 1), but it is not always straightforward to distinguish this from the published accounts. It appears that those released in the 1840s did not establish (implied by record 65/2 in Table 1), even though [?wild] foxes were 'plentiful' in 1846 (record 46/1 in Table 1). In 1866, the phrase 'many a glorious gallop after foxes' (record 66/2 in Table 1) does not necessarily imply wild foxes – in fact, the actual records of hunting in the 1860s refer to an unbagged fox (i.e. a fox kept during the week in confinement and transported to a meet in a bag and then set free). Wild foxes were only reported widely in the period 1878-1881 within the triangular area bounded by Geelong, west Melbourne and Ballarat (Fig. 1). By 1890 the fox had greatly increased its geographical range in Victoria, particularly in western and north-central parts (Fig. 2), at an apparent rate of spread of c. 150 km in 10 years. Its spread to the north-east was slower, at c. 40 km in 10 years. A similar disparity is evident in the 10 year period from 1890 to 1899. The fox was present throughout Victoria by c. 1900.

Equally important in ascertaining the spread and establishment of the fox in Victoria are null records. Relevant examples have been collated in Table 2. Farmers in some districts of Victoria frequently provided comment in *The Australasian* newspaper in the 1880s and early 1890s about factors causing local mortality of lambs and poultry. They failed to mention the fox when complaining about dense populations of rabbits eating wheat crops. It appears that foxes first established in the mallee region of Victoria in 1892 (records 92/35, 92/36, 92/37 in Table 1), but without any reports from struggling farmers of foxes causing depredations on lambs or poultry there.

Some early records from south-west Victoria, south-east South Australia, and southern New South Wales (records 80/8, 81/2, 84/20, 85/21, 88/6, 89/19, 89/26, 89/27, 90/8, 01/10 in Table 1; Fig. 1) do not align with the documented spread of the fox from south-central Victoria into western and northern Victoria and southern New South Wales. These records are thus treated as apparent outlier sightings and are discussed below.

The fox reached the outer limits of south-eastern Australia by 1905 (Adelaide district of South Australia) and 1907 (New South Wales/Queensland border) (Table 1).

Numerous records were found of bagged foxes being released in Victoria for sporting purposes (Table 1). Most of these foxes were captured and killed by the hounds. It appears likely that any bagged fox that managed to escape the Ballarat hounds (e.g. record 84/8 in Table 1) could find safety in one of the many abandoned mine shafts in the gold mining district of Ballarat (record 86/14 in Table 1). Hunting an unbagged fox was not regarded as genuine fox hunting, which involved the finding the fox 'in his native coverts' (*The Australasian* 25.8.1894: 325).

## Discussion

### Introduction vs establishment

*1830s*

Although European settlement of Victoria was from Tasmania and New South Wales and commenced in 1835, it is most unlikely that foxes would have been introduced at that time. The reason for this is that hunting a fox with a pack of hounds would not be the primary task of a pioneer settler or squatter. Kangaroo hounds, and not foxhounds, were the popular choice of dog owing to their ability to chase, subdue and kill kangaroo, an important source of fresh meat in a pioneer society. Dingoes and emus would also have provided ready sport for men mounted on horses. The first organised kangaroo hunt, involving a mounted pursuit with hounds, took place near Melbourne in August 1839 (Bonwick 1856: 123; de Serville 1980: 104). Following the great increase in sheep populations in grassy parts, kangaroos and emu declined (Batey 1907; Clark 2000: 129; Patterson 1842), but dingoes killed sheep (Clark 2000: 124) and probably increased in numbers.

*1840s*

In the early 1840s, particularly in 1842-43, a financial crisis affected Victoria and the other Australian colonies. Many settlers had to dispose of their properties cheaply in order to repay creditors, and this provided opportunities for less exposed settlers, such as the Chirnside brothers, to acquire more pastoral runs (Ronald 1978). Therefore this period should not have been propitious for the introduction of game or other animals from Britain, such as foxes, rabbits, hares and deer.

By 1845 hunt clubs were established at Corio [Geelong], Mt Rouse [Penshurst], Werribee, and Portland (*Geelong Advertiser* 10.5.1845: [3]; *Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate* 16.8.1845: [4]), and Mt Mercer and Port Fairy (*The Australasian* 15.7.1899: 131; de Serville 1980; C.E. Sayers in Bride 1898: 197). It is shortly after financial panic eased that the fox was first recorded in Victoria (1845, records 45/1, 45/2 and 45/3 in Table 1). It appears that at least two foxes were kept in captivity, and 'one of them was started at Penny Royal Creek [Melton] in the direction of Williamstown' but apparently escaped, as its death was not noted (Weidenhofer 1967: 147). This is only two months after the *Geelong Advertiser* of 8.3.1845 published a long article, evidently sourced from England, which extolled the sport of fox hunting. According to de Serville (1980), fox hunting also took place in the same year at Port Fairy. Presumably these foxes eventually died or were killed (perhaps by dingoes or Aborigines), as recollections of hunting in 1846 (*The Australasian* 27.10.1883: S10, 3.11.1883: S4) and 1848 relate only to dingoes (*The Australasian* 15.7.1899: 131). The hunt club at Portland was established in 1845, two years after hunting dogs were imported (Learmonth 1934: 216), but it is not known whether foxes were used.

The suggestion by Rolls (1969: 313) that the use of the terms 'Varmint', 'Bevis' and 'Reynard' for the fox in this period was merely as a variant of the dingo because

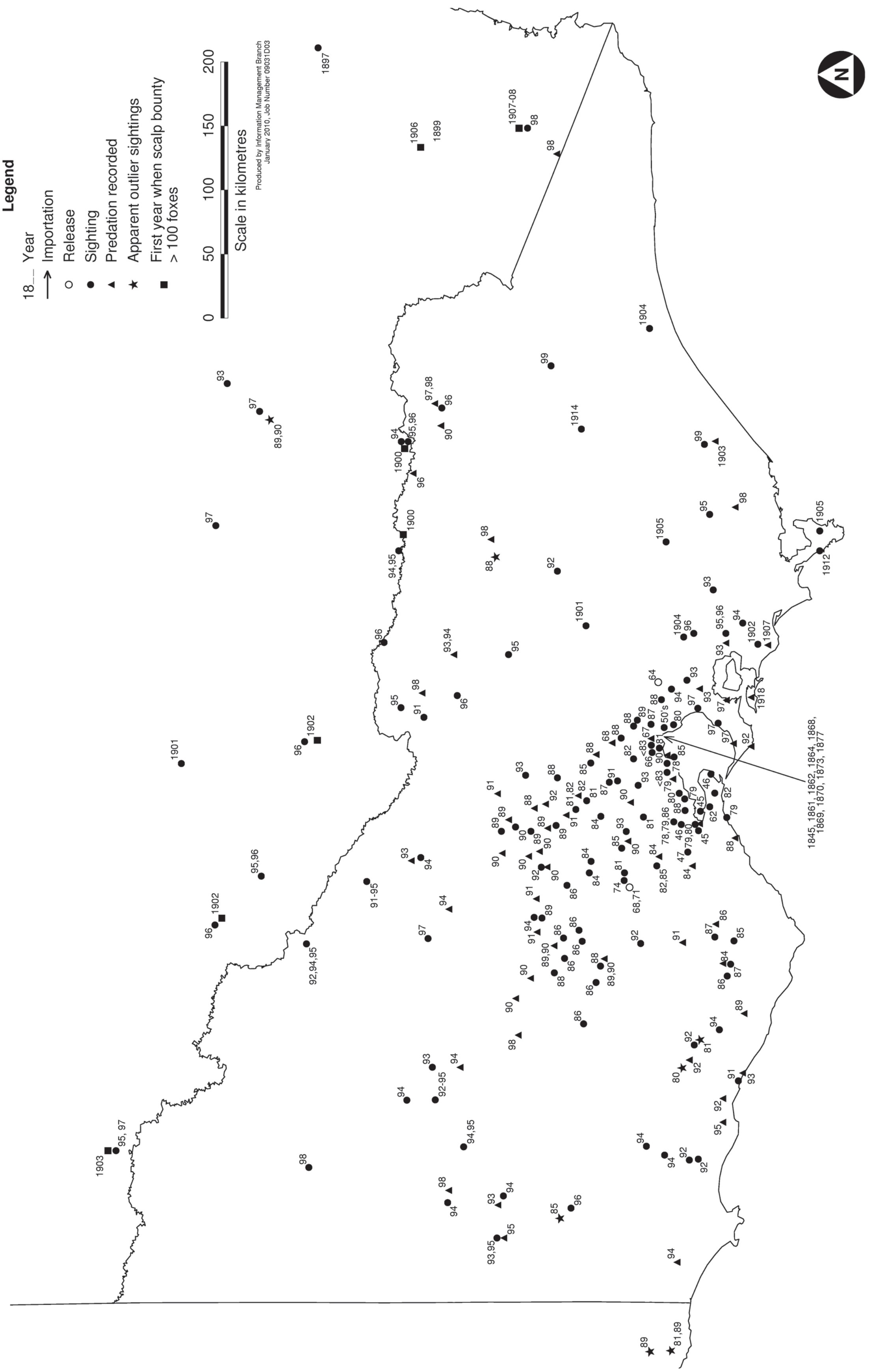

**Figure 1.** Records of the fox in Victoria, distinguishing between those based on importation, release, sighting, predation of poultry or sheep, and apparent outlier sightings. Also included are early records of bounties paid in southern New South Wales. The year when records of bounties paid in southern New South Wales first exceeded 100 fox scalps is shown (from Jarman 1986). Three early records of foxes in south-east South Australia (records 89/20, 89/27 and 01/10 in Table 1) and early records in southern New South Wales are shown. Several records were discovered too late to map but are included in Table 1.

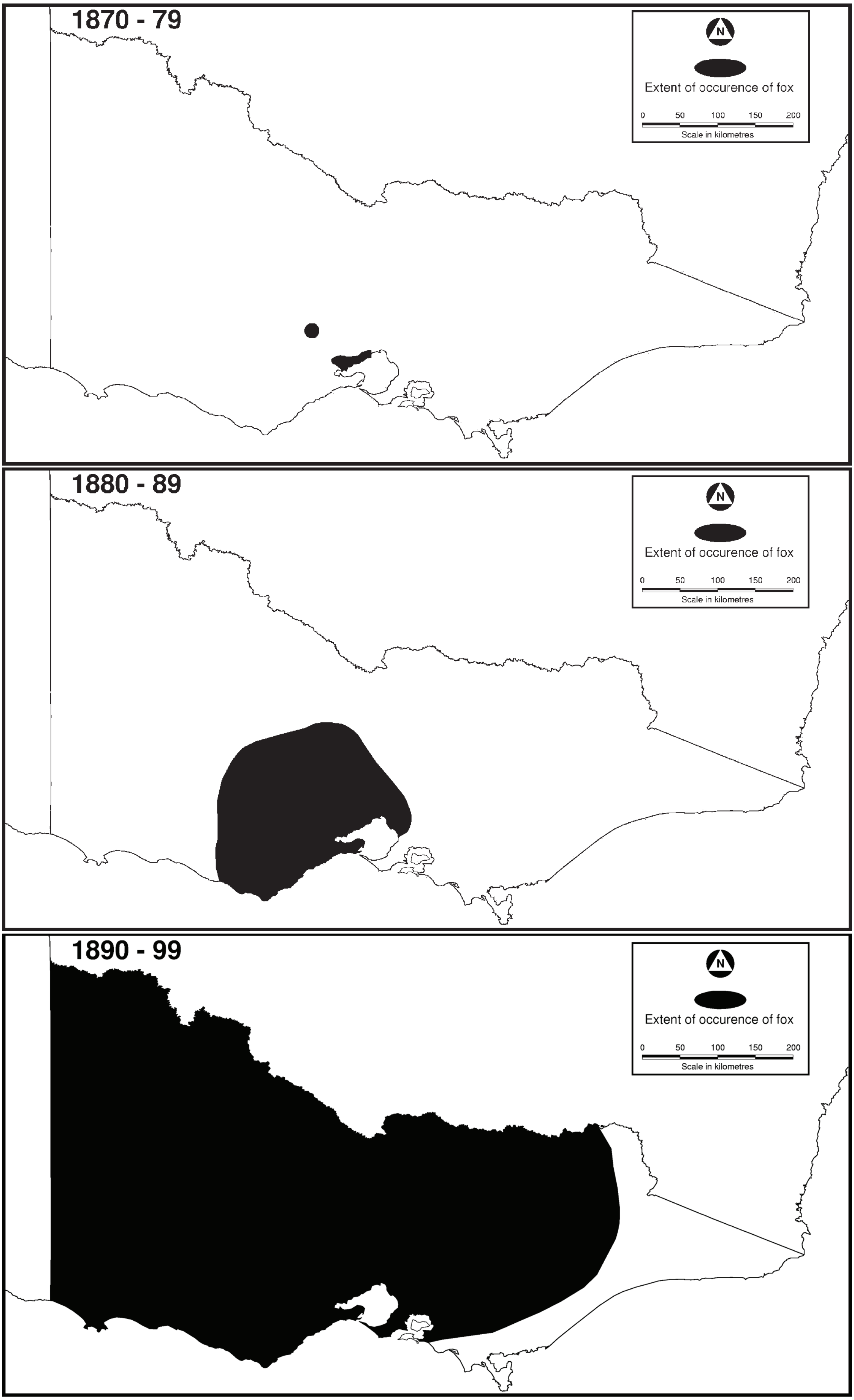

**Figure 2.** Inferred spread of the fox in Victoria in the periods 1870-79, 1880-89, and 1890-99.

**Table 2.** Localities in south-eastern Australia in which predation by foxes on lambs and poultry was not recorded, activities of a hunt club did not involve hounds pursuing wild foxes, or foxes were not recorded by competent observers in the period 1851-1898.

Localities referred to are in Victoria, unless distinguished by SA (South Australia) or NSW (New South Wales).

In quotations, spelling and capitalisation are exactly as in the original; brackets enclose comment or interpretation by the author.

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51/1 | 1851 | Victoria | An original poem about the bush includes an allusion to the absence of the fox, and the hunting instead of dingoes with hounds | *The Argus* 13.5.1851: [5] |
| 53/1 | 1853 | Melbourne | Establishment of a subscription pack of hounds in Melbourne 'for the purpose of encouraging the old English sport of hunting in this colony. The wild dog [dingo] and kangaroo are very good substitutes for the fox and the hare of the old country.' This implies that foxes had not established in the wild. | *The Argus* 24.2.1853: [4] |
| 55/1 | 1855 | Prahran, South Yarra, Brighton | Melbourne Hunt Club meets during the hunting season involved pursuit of kangaroos or an unbagged dingo | *The Argus* 12.6.1855: 5, 22.6.1855: 5, 24.7.1855: 5 |
| 55/2 | 1855 | Ravenswood (near Bendigo) | Hunt resulted in 3 kangaroos being killed | *The Argus* 13.7.1855: 4 |
| 55/3 | 1855 | Maryborough | Hunt resulted in one kangaroo being killed | *The Argus* 11.10.1855: 5 |
| 56/1 | 1856 | | Criticism of Melbourne Hunt Club for cruelty in pursuing an uncarted stag (in an era when a 'poor man' could be fined for mistreating a horse) | *The Argus* 9.10.1856: 5 |
| 58/1 | 1858 | Tarrangower (Tarrengower, Loddon River) | Kangaroo hunts | *The Argus* 13.5.1858: 3, 31.5.1858: 6 |
| 58/2 | 1858 | Near Bullarook | First meet of 'Ballaarat' Hunt Club: 3 kangaroos pursued by 11 dogs | *The Argus* 3.6.1858: 7 |
| 58/3 | 1858 | Mt Duneed (near Geelong) | First meet of Geelong Hunt Club: 2 kangaroos pursued by 5 dogs during a ride of 40-50 miles | *The Argus* 28.6.1858: 6 |
| 59/1 | 1859 | Brighton | A bagman (dingo) killed by the Melbourne hounds | *The Argus* 23.5.1859: 5 |
| 59/2 | 1859 | | 'There being about as little sport in this colony as any country in the world, I [propose] giving a buck every two or three weeks during winter; and as I am getting red deer from England, I will be able to give a stag hunt, which affords better sport than fallow deer.' [T.] Chirnside. | *The Argus* 23.8.1859: 5 |
| 59/3 | 1859 | Werribee, Pt Cook | Melbourne hounds pursued 2 deer | *The Argus* 29.8.1859: 5 |
| 59/4 | 1859 | Little River district, including You Yangs | Geelong hounds pursued a deer and then a 'half-bred native dog' | *The Argus* 6.9.1859: 5 |
| 60/1 | 1860 | Bellarine district, Meredith, German Town, near Mt Moriac, Shank Hill (Geelong district) | Geelong hounds in pursuit of kangaroos, 'a half-bred native dog', a 'bagged wild dog', and a dingo | *The Argus* 22.5.1860: 5, 26.5.1860: 6, 5.6.1860: 7, 7.6.1860: 5, 16.6.1860: 5, 28.6.1860: 7, 7.7.1860: 3, 8.8.1860: 7, 24.8.1860: 5, 3.9.1860: 5, 4.9.1860: 5 |
| 60/2 | 1860 | Near Ballarat | Hounds of the Ballarat Hunt Club pursued a kangaroo | *The Argus* 18.5.1860: 5 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 61/1 | 1861 | Brighton, Cheltenham, Oakleigh, Springvale (all south-east of Melbourne) | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunted Club pursued kangaroos, one deer (uncarted), and dingoes (?unbagged) during the season | *The Argus* 1.6.1861: 5, 7.6.1861: 5 & 6, 15.7.1861: 5, 29.7.1861: 5, 20.9.1861: 3 |
| 61/2 | 1861 | Bellarine, German Town, South Barwon, Shanck Hill, Bream Creek (all Geelong district) | Hounds of the Geelong Hunt Club pursued kangaroos and one unbagged dingo during the season | *The Argus* 8.5.1861: 5, 9.5.1861: 7, 8.6.1861: 5, 31.8.1861: 6, 13.6.1861: 5, 19.7.1861: 7, 17.8.1861: 6 |
| 62/1 | 1862 | Oakleigh | 'Some people may sneer at Australian hunting, but I doubt whether a wild kangaroo will not show as much sport as a fox' | *The Argus* 5.8.1862: 7 |
| 66/1 | 1866 | Brighton, Oakleigh | During the hunting season, the hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased kangaroos | *The Australasian* 9.6.1866: 298-9, 16.6.1866: 331, 7.7.1866: 427, 28.7.1866: 522, 4.8.1866: 554, 18.8.1866: 620, 25.8.1866: 650, 1.9.1866: 683, 8.9.1866: 715 |
| 66/2 | 1866 | Werribee | A deer chased by the Melbourne hounds | *The Australasian* 29.9.1866: 812 |
| 66/3 | 1866 | Barwon Park (near Winchelsea) | List of species shot during the year – fox not listed | *The Australasian* 9.2.1866: 183 |
| 67/1 | 1867 | Brighton, Springvale, Essendon, Oakleigh, Dandenong | 'unless some steps are taken by the members of the M.H.C. to provide kangaroos, hunting in Victoria will very shortly be a dead letter, except after deer.' | *The Australasian* 8.6.1867: 714 (also weekly reports 8.6.1867-28.9.1867) |
| 67/2 | 1867 | | 'as kangaroo get scarcer, there is no doubt the red deer will become the legitimate object of chase in Victoria.' (editorial) | *The Australasian* 5.10.1867: 425 |
| 68/1 | 1868 | | In a review of progress with acclimatisation of species, the President of the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria noted that the Society never liberated the rabbit; by not noting the fox, he implied that it was not yet established in Victoria | *The Australasian* 23.5.1868: 667 |
| 68/2 | 1868 | Barwon Park (Winchelsea district) | Report of feral cats being destroyed because of threat to the acclimatisation of Ceylon partridges; 'Hawks and native cats are now comparatively scarce, owing to the carnage carried on for the last few years' | *The Australasian* 13.6.1868: 762 |
| 68/3 | 1868 | | 'Drag hunting may do very well for the young gentlemen of Flemington, but a true sportsman likes to have the "real thing" to hunt.' [Comment by a member of the Melbourne Hunt Club implying that no wild foxes were present] | *The Australasian* 15.8.1868: 203 |
| 68/4 | 1868 | Werribee/Laverton district | Melbourne hounds pursued an uncarted red deer from Williamstown (10 mile run) | *The Australasian* 29.8.1868: 267 |
| 68/5 | 1868 | Colac district | Rabbits in thousands and expanding from hills; attempted eradication by 'scores' of trappers | *The Australasian* 29.8.1868: 277, 21.11.1868: 692 |
| 68/6 | 1868 | Ballarat district | The Sebastopol hounds pursued either a drag or wild kangaroo, and the Ballarat hounds chased after a released kangaroo or a drag | *The Australasian* (various issues 11.7.1868-26.9.1868) |
| 69/1 | 1869 | Werribee/Pt Cook | Mr Chirnside donated 2 red deer for the 1870 hunting season and 'as many of the fallow deer at Point Cook as the [Melbourne Hunt] Club might require.' | *The Argus* 18.5.1870: 5 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 69/2 | 1869 | Ballarat district | Ballarat hounds seemed to have pursued either a drag or a released kangaroo | *The Australasian* (various issues 12.6.1869-24.7.1869) |
| 70/1 | 1870 | Werribee district, including Pt Cook | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased after a deer | *The Argus* 13.6.1870: 5, 25.7.1870: 5 |
| 70/2 | 1870 | Ballarat district | The Ballarat hounds hunted only released dingo, deer or a drag, and the Sebastopol hounds chased wild kangaroo during the season | *The Australasian* (May-September) |
| 70/3 | 1870 | Melbourne district | The Melbourne hounds chased a liberated dingo, uncarted or free ranging deer, or a drag, and the Mordialloc hounds chased only kangaroo during the season | *The Australasian* (May-October) |
| 70/4 | 1870 | Werribee, Point Cook, Laverton | The Melbourne and the Ballarat Hunt Clubs jointly visited Chirnside's property and hunted red deer and fallow deer, and then hunted hares at Laverton | *The Australasian* 30.7.1870: 139 |
| 71/1 | 1871 | Werribee district, including Pt Cook and Laverton | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased after a deer | *The Argus* 22.5.1871: 5, 10.7.1871: 5, 24.7.1871: 5, 14.8.1871: 5; *The Australasian* 2.9.1871: 299-300 |
| 71/2 | 1871 | Williamstown | 'The game appeared to be swarming in all directions, fallow deer, hares and rabbits, being started almost at every step' [Melbourne hounds] | *The Argus* 28.8.1871: 5 |
| 71/3 | 1871 | Laverton | A deer hunted to Footscray by the Melbourne hounds | *The Argus* 18.9.1871: 5; *The Australasian* 23.9.1871: 395 |
| 71/4 | 1871 |  | 'It is very much to be regretted that there is no animal similar to the fox that would afford native game for the pack to hunt…In the absence of the fox, the only animal in the world that affords the perfection of hunting, we must make up our minds to be content with what we can get but we hope the new [reformed Melbourne Hunt] Club will eschew the drag.' (editorial) | *The Australasian* 1.7.1871: 9 |
| 71/5 | 1871 | Ballarat district | The Ballarat hounds hunt a drag, whereas the Sebastopol hounds hunt 'legitimate' game (i.e. kangaroo) near Buninyong and Smythesdale | *The Australasian* 1.7.1871: 10, 29.7.1871: 139 |
| 71/6 | 1871 |  | 'It will be many a long day we suppose ere he [the fox terrier] will have a chance of bolting [flushing] a fox in this part of the world' [Discussion in the context of an exhibition of dog breeds] | *The Australasian* 2.9.1871: 300 |
| 72/1 | 1872 | Werribee district, including Pt Cook and Laverton | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased after deer | *The Argus* 10.6.1872: 5, 19.8.1872: 5; *The Australasian* 15.6.1872: 746, 29.6.1872: 812-3 |
| 72/2 |  |  | 'Foxes are, unfortunately, not yet acclimatised' (editorial) | *The Australasian* 4.5.1872: 553 |
| 72/3 | 1872 |  | Criticism of the Flemington Hunt Club for using a fox that is not wild | *The Australasian* 3.8.1872: 140 |
| 72/3 | 1872 | Near Buninyong and Smythesdale | Rowlands' hounds (based at Sebastopol near Ballarat) were reported to chase only wild kangaroos | *The Australasian* 22.6.1872: 780, 13.7.1872: 44, 20.7.1872: 76, 24.8.1872: 237, 19.10.1872: 492 |
| 73/1 | 1873 | Werribee district | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased after a deer; presence of hares noted | *The Argus* 9.6.1873: 7, 11.8.1873: 5, 18.8.1873: 5, 25.8.1873: 5; *The Australasian* 4.10.1873: 426-7 |
| 73/2 | 1873 | Near Steiglitz | Good coursing at the Anakie Hills; hares were numerous | *The Argus* 18.4.1873: 6 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 73/3 | 1873 |  | 'It is true we have not foxes, nor have we at our command a deer-park…we have…the next best thing to foxes – wild dogs' | *The Australasian* 28.6.1873: 811 |
| 73/4 | 1873 | Outer Melbourne district | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased a drag, a released dingo, or a wild kangaroo | *The Australasian* May-Sep 1873 |
| 73/5 | 1873 | Outer Melbourne district | Flemington hounds chased either a deer or a released dingo | *The Australasian* May-Aug 1873 |
| 73/6 | 1873 | Smythesdale, Buninyong | Rowlands' hounds chased wild kangaroos (a drag is never used) | *The Australasian* May-Oct 1873 |
| 73/7 | 1873 | Bendigo district | Bendigo hounds chased either a drag or a wild kangaroo | *The Australasian* Jul-Sep 1873 |
| 73/8 | 1873 | Werribee district | Werribee harriers hunted hares | *The Australasian* 9.8.1873: 172, 30.8.1873: 267 |
| 73/9 | 1873 | Warrnambool district | Villiers hounds hunted a wild kangaroo | *The Australasian* 27.9.1873: 395 |
| 73/10 | 1873 | Kewell (Vectis station, Wimmera district) | Wilson's hounds hunted a drag, wild kangaroo, released dingo, or a released kangaroo dog | *The Australasian* 7.6.1873: 716, 21.6.1873: 779, 28.6.1873: 811, 2.8.1873: 139, 13.9.1873: 331, 27.9.1873: 395 |
| 74/1 | 1874 | Werribee district | Hares hunted by the Werribee Harriers | *The Australasian* 30.5.1874: 683; *The Argus* 20.7.1874: 5 |
| 74/2 | 1874 | Belmont and Bell Park, Geelong district | Hares hunted by the Werribee Harriers | *The Australasian* 4.7.1874: 12, 19.9.1874: 363; *The Argus* 20.7.1874: 5, 20.8.1874: 5, 24.8.1874: 6 |
| 74/3 | 1874 | Werribee district | A deer pursued by the hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club and retaken near Bacchus Marsh | *The Argus* 31.8.1874: 5; *The Australasian* 5.9.1874: 300 |
| 74/4 | 1874 | Maribyrnong district | Flemington hounds variously pursued a drag and a dingo [?released]; hares also encountered | *The Australasian* 4.7.1874: 11, 8.8.1874: 172 |
| 74/5 | 1874 |  | 'the Melbourne Club hunt either a dingo or a deer' | *The Australasian* 18.7.1874: 75 |
| 74/6 | 1874 |  | 'both the Melbourne Hounds and the Flemington Hounds are essentially drag hunts' [comment by S Waldock]; the Melbourne Hunt Club accused by him of using 'cur dogs' and pretending that these were dingoes | *The Australasian* 15.8.1874: 203 |
| 74/7 | 1874 | Little River | Destruction by dogs of 12 ewes on a farm | *The Australasian* 29.8.1874: 279 |
| 75/1 | 1875 | Werribee district | 30 couple of harriers coursed a hare for 6 miles towards Mt Derrimut | *The Argus* 24.5.1875: 5 |
| 75/2 | 1875 |  | The Melbourne hounds 'will render a good account of themselves, whether following the deer, the dingo, or that other mysterious animal that so often provides sport for a Victorian field.' [This last allusion is to the drag] | *The* Australasian 29.5.1875: 684 |
| 75/3 | 1875 | Bell Park (Geelong district) | Chirnside's harriers pursued a hare | *The Argus* 14.6.1875: 6 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 75/4 | 1875 | Bell Park (Geelong district) | Werribee harriers pursued an uncarted deer; hares numerous | *The Australasian* 24.7.1875: 108 |
| 75/5 | 1875 | From near Laverton west to Werribee | Joint meet of the Werribee Harriers and Findon Harriers pursued a fallow deer to Werribee and killed it (13 mile run) | *The Argus* 31.8.1875: 5; *The Australasian* 4.9.1975: 299 |
| 75/6 | 1875 | | A summation of the 1875 hunting season of the Melbourne Hunt Club by the Sporting Editor: 'if these reports have not been of that varied and interesting nature that characterised them some years ago, it is no fault of the writers, but rather that the natural game, which, in past times the hounds used to follow, has become extinct near Melbourne, and recourse has been had more to the drag and the dog than to the kangaroo and the red deer. And we need not tell our sporting readers that, although the drag may furnish hard riding, it is at the sacrifice of real sport, and the red herring or aniseed is a poor substitute for the wily Reynard or the antlered monarch of the glen.' | *The Australasian* 9.10.1875: 457 |
| 76/1 | 1876 | Laverton | Coursing party after hares, which were 'so wild' | *The Argus* 8.5.1876: 5 |
| 76/2 | 1876 | West of Melbourne | Werribee Harriers and Findon Harriers jointly pursued (wild) hares in the direction of Mt Derrimut | *The Australasian* 27.5.1876: 685 |
| 76/3 | 1876 | Werribee district | Melbourne Hunt Club pursued red deer between the deer park and Point Cook; the abundance of wild hares initially distracted the hounds | *The Argus* 11.9.1876: 6; *The Australasian* 7.10.1876: 461 |
| 76/4 | 1876 | Caulfield | Melbourne Hunt Club has completed the construction of a 'most substantial enclosure for deer' near its kennels | *The Australasian* 7.10.1876: 461 |
| 76/5 | 1876 | Melton and Bacchus Marsh districts | No mention of losses of sheep on various properties | *The Australasian* 7.10.1876: 471-2; 28.10.1876: 567, 18.11.1876: 664; 25.11.1876: 697, 23.12.1876: 824, 6.1.1877: 24 |
| 77/1 | 1877 | | 'There is nothing left, then, for the votaries of Nimrod but the dingo or the drag, as foxes have not been acclimatised; and even if they were, the nature of the country is against them in the absence of gorses and small coverts in which they could find shelter, and be found when wanted.' 'We are sadly afraid that if it omes to another season of "drag", subscribers will fall off, and the Melbourne Hunt Club will follow in the wake of that of Sydney, with a similar inscription to be recorded on its tombstone – "killed by aniseed."' | *The Australasian* 24.2.1877: 233 |
| 77/2 | 1877 | Werribee district | At the first meet for the year of the Australian Coursing Club, a great variety of game was seen. This included bustards, emu, hares, deer, wild rabbits, bandicoots and native cats. | *The Argus* 21.4.1877: 5 |
| 77/3 | 1877 | | Melbourne Hunt Club has decided to 'give up the drag, and hunt nothing but game' | *The Australasian* 16.6.1877: 233 |
| 77/4 | 1877 | Werribee district | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased after deer held at Werribee Park six times during the season | *The Argus* 18.6.1877: 5, 2.7.1877: 5, 30.7.1877: 5, 24.9.1877: 5; *The Australasian* 23.6.1877: 780, 7.7.1877: 13, 4.8.1877: 140, 1.9.1877: 269, 22.9.1877: 365, 29.9.1877: 395 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 77/5 | 1877 | | 'Hunting men say this is to be the best, or the last season of the Melbourne Hunt Club, which was established under its present master, Mr. George Watson, before the Gold days [1851]. The Sydney Club has been broken up, and the Melbourne has nearly been driven to the same end, by the difficulty of getting game. The members have had enough of following the drag at Steeplechase pace over the stiffest country, which was all they were treated to last year [1876], except when Mr. Chirnside invited them to hunt deer at the Werribee. It is resolved that there shall be no more drag hunting. A deer park has been formed, and the pack will only meet in the Kangaroo country, or when a stag is turned out. The first meeting at Frankston three days ago was well attended.' | *The Herald* 8.8.1877: 10 |
| 78/1 | 1878 | Werribee district | Hounds of the Findon Harriers and Werribee Harriers chased an uncarted deer, a wild hare, and a wild rabbit. 'At present I am disposed to think that hare hunting is the only legitimate sport in the way of hunting we have here' | *The Australasian* 1.6.1878: 684 |
| 78/2 | 1878 | Werribee district | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased after an enlarged deer from Braybrook to Werribee | *The Australasian* 15.6.1878: 748 |
| 78/3 | 1878 | Werribee district | Hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club chased after deer | *The Australasian* 6.7.1878: 12, 13.7.1878: 45, 22.7.1878: 107 |
| 79/1 | 1879 | Mordialloc district | VD Broughton advises that his hounds will continue to hunt kangaroos; 'We have had some capital sport, the nearest approach to fox-hunting that can be obtained in this colony' [implying that wild foxes are absent from this district]. | *The Argus* 16.9.1879: 7 |
| 82/1 | 1882 | Boort | A hunt club recently established, to run down wild dogs (not foxes) – implying that foxes are absent from this district | *The Argus* 13.7.1882: 5 |
| 83/1 | 1883 | Mallee district | In debate about the Mallee Pastoral Leases Bill, discussion of problems caused to the pastoral tenants of the Crown by rabbits and dingoes, without mention of foxes | *Victoria Parliamentary Debates* 43: 781, 789; 44: 1335 |
| 83/2 | 1883 | Mysia district | Wild dogs destroying poultry | *The Australasian* 27.1.1883: 121 |
| 83/3 | 1883 | Boort district | Sheep losses from wild dogs (settlers had thought dogs had been exterminated) | *The Australasian* 27.1.1883: 121 |
| 83/4 | 1883 | Mallee district | Wild dogs very numerous | *The Australasian* 5.5.1883: 568 |
| 83/5 | 1883 | Dimboola district | Wild dogs increasing rapidly; killing sheep close to town | *The Australasian* 5.5.1883: S7, 12.5.1883: 598 |
| 83/6 | 1883 | Swan Hill | Wild dogs numerous; bonus increased to £2 | *The Australasian* 19.5.1883: 633 |
| 83/7 | 1883 | Mansfield district | Sheep protection Society formed on account of dingo infestation | *The Australasian* 7.7.1883: 24 |
| 83/8 | 1883 | Boort | The wild dog suppression association succeeding in reducing the abundance of dingoes | *The Argus* 6.8.1883: 10 |
| 83/9 | 1883 | Wimmera district | Dingo pest | *The Australasian* 25.8.1883: 248 |
| 83/10 | 1883 | Swan Hill | Reduction in the carrying capacity of stations caused by wild dogs | *The Australasian* 15.9.1883: 346 |
| 83/11 | 1883 | Poowong & Jeetho, South Gippsland | Dingoes troublesome | *The Australasian* 6.10.1883: 442 |
| 84/1 | 1884 | Dimboola | Dingoes increasing and causing havoc among sheep flocks | *The Australasian* 3.5.1884: 569 |
| 85/1 | 1885 | Dimboola district | Swarming with wild dogs; almost impossible to graze sheep | *The Australasian* 21.11.1885: 970 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 85/2 | 1885 | North-Western [?Dimboola], Northern, North-Eastern [?Swan Hill] and Eastern [?Kerang] Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 71: 437, 786, 1187 |
| 86/1 | 1886 | Heytesbury Forest | Wild dogs becoming 'alarmingly plentiful and destructive', with calves, pigs, poultry and tame dogs attacked | *The Australasian* 7.8.1886: 250 |
| 86/2 | 1886 | North-Western, Northern, North-Eastern, Eastern, Western [?Nhill], Middle and Warracknabeal Vermin Districts in the mallee region | Bonuses paid out on > 1500 wild dogs destroyed, with no record of bonuses paid out on foxes | *Victoria Government Gazette* 73: 394, 1218, 1272; 74: 1979 |
| 87/1 | 1887 | SE of Benalla | Dingoes killing lambs | *The Australasian* 22.1.1887: 157 |
| 87/2 | 1887 | Borung | Wild dogs affect keeping of sheep | *The Australasian* 5.2.1887: 253 |
| 87/3 | 1887 | Near Nhill | Wild dogs attacked a flock of sheep at noon | *The Australasian* 2.4.1887: 632 |
| 87/4 | 1887 | Mansfield | Wild dogs a great nuisance: sheep have to be yarded at night | *The Australasian* 16.4.1887: 730 |
| 87/5 | 1887 | Frankston | Kangaroos pursued by hounds of the Melbourne Hunt Club | *The Australasian* 14.5.1887: 932, 21.5.1877: 979-980 |
| 87/6 | 1887 | Warragul | Dingoes killing sheep | *The Australasian* 28.5.1887: 1019 |
| 87/7 | 1887 | Horsham (Sheep Hills) | Many sheep killed by dogs | *The Australasian* 11.6.1887: 1114 |
| 87/8 | 1887 | Near Ballarat | The drag 'is a capital preparation for the time we are all looking forward to, when we shall be able to hunt the natural game. We cannot hunt foxes at present in Ballarat, because there are no foxes.' | *The Australasian* 25.6.1887: 1221 |
| 87/9 | 1887 | Near Ballarat (Haddon) | 'If we could only get a real wild varmint of a fox (not a bagman) to lead us over such a line of country, or even a kangaroo would condescend to do it, hunting would be perfection' | *The Australasian* 2.7.1887: 21 |
| 87/10 | 1887 | Mallee | Dogs 'are the principal bar to the profitable occupation of the mallee country' | *The Australasian* 27.8.1887: 395 |
| 87/11 | 1887 | Warnambool, Port Fairy | Geese present along roadside and pigs plentiful | *The Australasian* 22.10.1887: 778, 5.11.1887: 874 |
| 87/12 | 1887 | North-Western, Northern and North-Eastern Vermin Districts in the mallee region | Bonuses paid out in the calendar year on wild dogs only (to the value of £922), with no record of bonuses paid out on foxes | *Victoria Government Gazette* 75: 630, 866, 1998 |
| 88/1 | 1888 | Lake Corrong, Lake Tyrrell (mallee) | Dingo destruction; fencing to keep dingoes out | *The Australasian* 21.4.1888: 858, 28.4.1888: 914, 5.5.1888: 971 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 88/2 | 1888 | Dandenong | Native cats killing fowls (with method described for poisoning them) | *The Australasian* 14.7.1888: 73 |
| 88/3 | 1888 | Maffra (Avon River) | Dingoes common in ranges; they visit the lowlands and make it next to impossible to keep sheep. Dingoes reported killing and eating domestic dogs | *The Australasian* 22.12.1888: 1378 |
| 88/4 | 1888 | North-Western, North-Eastern, Western and Eastern Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 77: 561-2, 715; 78: 1806 |
| 89/1 | 1889 | Heytesbury forest | Dingoes ravaging sheep and poultry | *The Australasian* 13.4.1889: 761 |
| 89/2 | 1889 | Mallee | Wild dogs | *The Australasian* 2.11.1889: 901 |
| 89/3 | 1889 | Orbost to Croajingolong | No foxes noted on a 3 week excursion on foot; brief discussion of other mammals seen | Spencer & French 1889 |
| 89/4 | 1889 | North-Eastern, Western and Warracknabeeal Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 80: 284; 81: 1663; 86: 1459 |
| 90/1 | 1890 | Nhill | Wild dogs | *The Australasian* 13.9.1890: 490 |
| 90/2 | 1890 | Dimboola/Hindmarsh | Wild dogs | *The Australasian* 4.10.1890: 635 |
| 90/3 | 1890 | Murndal (near Wannon) | Failed attempts to stock woods with pheasants attributed to hawks, feral cats and native cats; fox not mentioned | *The Australasian* 10.1.1891: 55 |
| 90/4 | 1890 | North-Western, Northern, North-Eastern, Eastern and Middle Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 80: 284; 83: 957; 84: 2791, 1340, 3742; 85: 4626; 89: 1960 |
| 91/1 | 1891 | Kewell | A wild dog club formed to combat depredations of dingoes on sheep in Dunmunkle, Borung and Dimboola shires; 500-600 sheep killed in less than one month | *The Australasian* 16.5.1891: 917 |
| 91/2 | 1891 | Carrajung | Wild dogs plentiful | *The Australasian* 23.5.1891: 967 |
| 91/3 | 1891 | Tooan | Mongrel dogs killing sheep | *The Australasian* 6.6.1891: 1061 |
| 91/4 | 1891 | Nhill | Rabbits in large numbers along the Wimmera River | *The Australasian* 29.8.1891: 393 |
| 91/5 | 1891 | Corack district (north of Donald) | Shooting of rabbits and hares; the latter in large numbers | *The Australasian* 19.9.1891: 538 |
| 91/6 | 1891 | North-Western, Northern, Western and Warracknabeal Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 86: 406, 1393, 1458-9, 1781 |
| 92/1 | 1892 | Foster | Wild dogs attacking pigs (100 killed); sheep cannot be kept because of dingoes | *The Australasian* 20.2.1892: 343 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92/2 | 1892 | Darrawhurrut (Curdie's River) | Description of a dingo and rabbit proof fence, and opinion that it will keep out foxes (implying that foxes not yet present) | *The Australasian* 5.3.1892: 439 |
| 92/3 | 1892 | Bena, South Gippsland | Dingoes attacking sheep; therefore sheep dispensed with | *The Australasian* 16.4.1892: 723 |
| 92/4 | 1892-3 | Hamilton | The newly formed Hamilton Hunt Club had its first run on 1.6.1892 (after a bagged fox). Subsequent reports for the 1892 and 1893 meets explicitly state the use of a drag (and occasionally a bagged fox), but never a wild fox | *The Australasian* 11.6.1892: 1114, 25.6.1892: 1209, 20.8.1892: 353, 27.8.1892: 401, 24.9.1892: 594, 8.10.1892: 690, 10.6.1893: 1070, 24.6.1893: 1161, 1.7.1893: 17, 22.7.1893: 149, 5.8.1893: 237, 2.9.1893: 413, 9.9.1893: 457, 23.9.1893: 545, 14.10.1893: 677 |
| 92/5 | 1892 | Lake Coorong (mallee) | Wild dogs, feral domestic dogs | *The Australasian* 2.7.1892: 7 |
| 92/6 | 1892 | North-Western, Northern, Western and Middle Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 89: 807, 927, 1070, 1960 |
| 93/1 | 1893 | Donald | Wild dogs attacking sheep | *The Australasian* 17.6.1893: 1106 |
| 93/2 | 1893 | Cunnunghame (?near Bairnsdale) | No rabbits or foxes present | *The Argus* 11.11.1893 |
| 93/3 | 1893 | Northern, North-Eastern, Western and Middle Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 92: 1016, 1294; 93: 1614 |
| 93/4 | 1893 | Albury district (NSW) | Under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act, the balance sheet for the calendar year showed expenditure on 20 dingo scalps but none on fox scalps | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1894: 739 |
| 93/5 | 1893 | Corowa district (NSW) | Under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act, the balance sheet for the calendar year showed expenditure on 25 dingo scalps but none on fox scalps | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1894: 1082 |
| 93/6 | 1893 | Balranald & Wentworth districts (NSW) | Under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act, the balance sheet for the period July-December showed expenditure on 59 and 190 dingo scalps respectively, but none on fox scalps | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1894: 739 |
| 94/1 | 1894 | Western Vermin District and Northern Vermin District | £36.6.8 and £462.10.0 respectively expended on wild dog destruction in this calendar year; no expenditure on fox destruction | *Victoria Government Gazette* 96: 1758; 95: 674 |
| 94/2 | 1894 | Lawloit Shire | Dingoes attacking sheep at night and during the day | *The Australasian* 2.6.1894: 933 |
| 94/3 | 1894 | Maffra, Glenmaggie, Rosedale | Newly-formed Gippsland Hunt Club chased a drag at one meet, and apparently likewise at two other meets | *The Australasian* 23.6.1894: 1076, 4.8.1894: 192, 8.9.1894: 413 |
| 94/4 | 1894 | Balranald and Wenworth districts (NSW) | No fox scalps presented under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act for this calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1894: 4839; 1895: 880, 1470 |

| Record No. | Year | Locality/Region | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94/5 | 1894 | Northern and Western Vermin Districts in the mallee region | In statement of accounts, expenditure is reported for wild dogs (dingoes) only (calendar year) | *Victoria Government Gazette* 95: 674; 96: 1758 |
| 95/1 | 1895 | Western Vermin District and Northern Vermin District | £19.6.4 and £254.10.0 respectively expended on wild dog destruction in this calendar year; no expenditure on fox destruction | *Victoria Government Gazette* 98: 805; 99: 3115 |
| 95/2 | 1895 | Balranald and Wenworth districts (NSW) | No fox scalps presented under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act for this calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1895: 4518, 7530; 1896: 1857 |
| 95/3 | 1895 | Wagra & upper Murray | Dingoes very troublesome during last 2 years and appear to be getting worse each year. Fears with the lambing season, due to commence in 2 months | *The Australasian* 15.6.1895: 1113 |
| 95/4 | 1895 | Albert River, near Alberton, South Gippsland | Wild dogs attacking sheep | *The Australasian* 22.6.1895: 1158 |
| 96/1 | 1896 | Wenworth district (NSW) | No fox scalps presented under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act for this calendar year | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1896: 7461 |
| 96/2 | 1896 | Omeo | Rabbits reported (but no mention of foxes) | *The Australasian* 28.3.1896: 581 |
| 96/3 | 1896 | Bairnsdale | Threatened invasion of rabbits: appointment of an inspector sought from Government (No mention of foxes) | *The Australasian* 25.4.1896: 776 |
| 96/4 | 1896 | Wentworth district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid bonus on 125 native dogs in the period July-December (nil recorded for foxes) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 1016 |
| 96/5 | 1896 | Bombala district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid bonus on hawks and dingoes in the period July-December (nil recorded for foxes) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 2520 |
| 97/1 | 1897 | Western Vermin District | £16.13.4 expended on wild dog destruction in this calendar year; no expenditure on fox destruction | *Victoria Government Gazette* 104: 177 |
| 97/2 | 1897 | Bombala district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid bonus on hawks and dingoes in the period January-June (nil recorded for foxes) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1897: 6700 |
| 97/3 | 1897 | Wentworth district (NSW) | Pastures and Stock Protection Board paid bonus on 160 native dogs in the calendar year (nil recorded for foxes) | *New South Wales Government Gazette* 1898: 1800 |
| 97/4 | 1897 | Bairnsdale district | Rabbits present 8 miles distant from Bairnsdale | *The Australasian* 25.12.1897: 1388 |
| 98/1 | 1898 | Western Vermin District | £5.5.0 expended on wild dog destruction in this calendar year; no expenditure on fox destruction | *Victoria Government Gazette* 107: 838 |
| 98/2 | 1898 | Dargo River | Hundreds of rabbits killed in the last 6 months | *The Australasian* 30.4.1898: 959 |
| 98/3 | 1898 | Wilson Promontory National Park | 'there are neither foxes nor rabbits there, only the native animals.' | *The Australasian* 8.10.1898: 796 |

'huntsmen were newly out from England and…seemed… somewhat ashamed of what they were chasing' is rejected. Other newspaper reports refer to '[wild] dog' and 'warragal' (*Geelong Advertiser* 7.5.1845: [5], *Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate* 28.5.1845: [3]) and sometimes praise the interchangeability of dingo and kangaroo for fox and hare (records 53/1 and 62/1 in Table 2). Hunting experience in New South Wales and Tasmania had demonstrated that the dingo and kangaroo afforded 'as good running as the fox and stag' (Jager 1842). Clement Hodgkinson, who resided in New South Wales for 5 years and travelled extensively, noted that the 'dingo affords good sport if hunted like the fox' (Hodgkinson 1845: 202). A settler, who lived near Bathurst New South Wales for 6 years, noted that hunting dingoes with kangaroo dogs is 'enjoyable', but not to be compared with fox-hunting (Balfour 1845: 22). In addition, a more sober account of a hunt conducted on 30.8.1845 (*Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate* 3.9.1845: [3]) simply states that Pyke's hounds 'struck up on a scent', which subsequently proved to be that of an emu and not the expected fox (*The Port Phillip Herald* 2.9.1843: [3] includes a similar account). Rolls (1969: 313) used another, less objective account, to cast doubt on the reliability of this early record.

### *1850s*

Records of hunt meets published in *The Argus* in the 1850s do not mention foxes. Hunt clubs were also established, more or less temporarily, at Bendigo, Gippsland, Ballarat, Geelong and elsewhere (Appendix 1). Kangaroo, deer and dingo are the only quarry mentioned in the few accounts found of these clubs' activities (records 55/1, 55/2, 55/3, 56/1, 58/1, 58/2, 58/3, 59/1 in Table 2). Although a hunt club was operating in Warrnambool district in 1858, there is no record in a local newspaper of foxes being hunted (Osbourne 1887). The occurrence of foxes would surely have been a newsworthy item.

The observant naturalist H.W. Wheelwright, resident in Victoria from 1852 to 1859, made no allusion to the occurrence of foxes (Anon. 1861). Nor were foxes mentioned by J.H. Kerr, who lived in Victoria in the period 1839-74 (Anon. 1872). An account of a three months' tour on horseback of western Victoria in 1857 included no records of foxes (Bonwick 1858). Foxes were also not noted during the 1850s by Howitt (1855), Kelly (1860), Anon. (1861) and John Hepburn (Quinlan 1967). George Russell, based north-west of Geelong, did not record foxes in the period 1859-73 (Brown 1971), even though noting other exotic mammal species. Reminiscences by a member of the Melbourne Hunt Club from 1853 to 1860 recorded that only the dingo and kangaroo were chased by hounds during this period (*The Australasian* 13.6.1896: 1120-1). There are at least another 20 contemporary accounts of rural life in parts of Victoria during the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s, none of which allude to the occurrence of foxes.

These null records collectively seem to indicate that the foxes imported and released in the 1840s failed to persist, confirming the supposition of Rolls (1969: 318). The only record of a fox in the 1850s (50/1 in Table 1) is vague and nothing about its status can be inferred.

### *1860s*

Despite Edward Wilson, the zealous promoter of acclimatisation of animals in Victoria, not listing the fox as present in Victoria in 1860 or 1862 (Wilson 1860, 1862; also Anon. 1864), and stating that there was no active effort to purchase foxes (Wilson 1863), several records were found of foxes near Melbourne in the 1860s. None of these, however, is suggestive of an established wild population (Table 1), although the reference to six or more foxes having been released in the Dandenong Ranges in 1864 (record 64/4) does indicate a major release with a chance of establishment. It seems to have failed, as foxes did not spread eastwards and establish in Gippsland in the 1860s and 1870s.

Hunt club meets reported in *The Argus* in 1860 and 1861 involved the pursuit of kangaroo, deer, or dingo (records 60/1, 60/2, 61/1, 61/2 in Table 2). According to the indexing by Suter (1999) of reports published in *The Argus* of hunt club meets during the 1860s, quarry was stated to be kangaroo, deer, dingo or a drag (a rag soaked in a strong-smelling attractant), with the fox mentioned only once (record 67/1 in Table 1). However, the first records of fox hunting in Victoria in the 1860s actually date from 1862 and 1866 – records 62/3 and 66/1 in Table 1. All of the records from 1862, 1866, 1867, 1868 and 1869 involved pursuit of an unbagged fox.

Ronald (1978) stated that foxes had not successfully acclimatised in Victoria by 1866, and Rolls (1969: 318) inaccurately mentions that accounts of hunts in the period 1864-68 refer to the lack of foxes. Because the Game Act of 1867 listed hares, deer and antelope as the only exotic mammals that were protected (from shooting), we can reasonably infer that foxes were not established in Victoria at that time. Contemporary debates in Parliament record no discussion about foxes and do not indicate that foxes were excluded from protection from shooting in order to appease sheep-farmers.

### *1870s*

The only report found of wild foxes in the early 1870s related to a release in c. 1871 near Ballarat and their presence there in 1874 (record 74/2 in Table 1). In contrast, numerous reports (Table 2) in the 1870s (up to August 1878) indicate frequent activity by hunt clubs between Geelong and Melbourne, without reference to foxes being disturbed by the presence of hundreds of riders, spectators, and hounds at these meets. All records from 1878-79 are from North Shore, You Yangs, Little River and Laverton, situated in the coastal strip of country between Geelong and Melbourne. The comment provided indicates that foxes were established and increasing in abundance.

Information assembled by Abbott (2008a: 122) suggests that the interval between the first sighting of foxes near Geraldton in Western Australia and foxes becoming conspicuous in this district was c. 4 years. If similar processes of establishment occurred in Victoria, foxes may have been released between Geelong and Melbourne in c. 1874. In contrast, evidence from the release of foxes in Tasmania in c. 1998 indicates a longer lag phase, as foxes are not yet conspicuously numerous in Tasmania (Saunders *et al.* 2006). Unlike the situation in Victoria in the 1870s, however, there has been a strategic deployment of poison baits, and this may have kept fox numbers low. Finally, if the four adult foxes landed in July 1877 (record 77/1 in Table 1) were the source of the wild foxes first reported in August 1878, the lag period between release and establishment may have been shorter than 13 months. If these two pairs of foxes were kept in confinement and allowed to breed, it is possible that as many as 10-20 foxes could have been simultaneously released in July 1878.

Relevant to the existence of a lag time is data on the number of foxes presented for payment of a bonus (monetary reward) to Pastures and Stock Protection Boards in southern New South Wales (Stock and Brands Branch 1888-). The purpose of this was to encourage the destruction of foxes. As foxes colonised a district, their numbers increased through local breeding from initial rarity to conspicuousness, and this is reflected in the numbers of foxes killed and presented for payment. Examples include: Albury district (3, 1894; 2, 1895; 2; 1896; 23, 1897; 103, 1898; 157, 1899; 415, 1900), Moulamein district (57, 1896; 40, 1897; 16, 1898; 145, 1899; 304, 1900), Corowa district (67, 1897; 154, 1898; 504, 1899; 635, 1900), and Balranald district (16, 1897; 19, 1898; 25, 1899; 206, 1900). All of these lag times are < 5 years. Jarman and Johnson (1977: 162) demonstrate that lag periods in other districts of New South Wales were also short.

Record 74/2 (Table 1) confirms the claim by Rolls (1969: 322) that foxes were feral and preying on poultry near Ballarat in 1874. However, it appears that this population failed to persist. When the Ballarat Hunt Club was revived in 1881, only drags, hares and released dingoes and deer were hunted in that season, with none of the accounts mentioning that wild foxes had been disturbed.

The famous English novelist Anthony Trollope, a lover of fox-hunting, visited Victoria for several weeks in 1872 and participated in a hunt that involved a drag and then a turned out dingo (*The Australasian* 1.6.1872: 683-4). The occurrence of foxes in Victoria was not remarked upon. However, he mentioned that the Melbourne hounds also hunted deer (both uncarted and wild), praised the availability of game (ducks, hares, pheasants, deer) but despaired that fox-hunting could thrive outside the British Isles (Edwards and Joyce 1967). The Scottish naturalist James Craig collected in Victoria for seven months in 1874-75 but did not record the occurrence of foxes (Craig 1908). A comprehensive history of the Campaspe district records much information about hares in the 1870s but makes no allusion to the occurrence of foxes (Randell 1982). The staple quarry of short-lived hunt clubs in Warrnambool district in 1873, and in Colac district in 1873-75, was apparently the kangaroo, as there is no record in local newspapers of foxes being hunted (Osbourne 1887, Hebb 1970). The itinerant rural worker Joseph Jenkins lived in Victoria from 1869 until 1894 (Evans 1975). His diary records numerous observations of farm pests north of Ballarat but the fox was not noted in the 1870s.

## Improved terminology

As foreshadowed in the introduction of this paper, authors should exercise more careful choice of words when describing the processes that lead to establishment, and not assume or imply that a record of occurrence necessarily indicates a viable population. The following distinctions are proposed: Introduction comprises two steps, importation from elsewhere and release into the wild; colonisation involves spread unaided by humans to areas previously uninhabited, translocation consists of deliberate spread by humans, and establishment is the final phase in which the species breeds successfully in the wild and is permanently present in the wild.

## Source, origin and importation of foxes

Importing foxes to the colonies was relatively easy. In *The Times* (London) newspaper from 1842 there are numerous advertisements by seven dealers in London offering foxes for sale (e.g. 26.4.1842: 1, 20.10.1842: 1, 25.1.1848: 1, 12.6.1848: 1, 29.12.1848: 1, 22.5.1851: 1, 27.5.1852: 1, 4.8.1852: 1, 16.4.1853: 1, 24.5.1853: 2, 22.6.1854: 2, 27.5.1858: 2, 4.1.1860: 2, 27.2.1860: 2, 14.7.1860: 2 [collected in France], 23.1.1861: 2, 21.2.1862: 2; many of these advertisements are repeated on other dates). A lengthy article about the market in Leadenhall, London, explained that many foxes were purchased there during the hunting season by 'two classes of customers' (*The Times* 17.11.1871: 6). First, there are those who court popularity by releasing a bagged fox shortly before an advertised meet, and second are Masters of Fox Hounds, who release foxes well in advance of meets, particularly in frequently hunted country 'long before the end of the season'. Both strategies may have operated in Victoria from the 1840s.

Foxes sold in the London markets could have been accessed from any part of Britain; particularly noteworthy is the evidence (above) of foxes being sourced from France for sale in London.

However, working against the ready availability of foxes in the London markets was the long, 60-80 day, voyage to Melbourne. Even though shipping firms in Britain were willing to provide free passage for all but the largest animals, and ship captains and sailors were co-operative (Wilson 1860), and the Admiralty expressed willingness for HM ships to convey animals from one station to another (Gillbank 1980), captive animals had to be fed, watered and kept in good health when passing through the tropics and the colder roaring forties. Rolls (1969: 223-4) appears to have overstated the threats likely to be experienced by caged animals. The exotic animal trade must have been profitable as some ship captains speculated in it (records 64/3, 69/2 in Table 1; compare the offer of lions for sale from a ship in Melbourne in 1857 (de Courcy 2003: 7).

Several sources attributed the successful introduction of foxes to the wealthy Chirnsides of Werribee (records 78/2, 85/17, 87/5, 89/22 in Table 1; Peake 1905, Hine 1934, Munro 1939; also note records 60/3, 73/2, 80/4 in Table 1), with Jones (1994) nominating 1870 as the approximate year of introduction. A contemporary account indicated that Thomas Chirnside was 'especially fond of riding to hounds' and fostered this pastime by importing deer into Victoria from Tasmania in the 1840s (Ronald 1978: 116) and red deer *(Cervus elaphus)* in 1857 (Inglis 1912: 74). Chirnside was also an excellent judge of horse stock, and was responsible for importing many high-class sheep and race horses (*The Argus* 28.4.1873: 5, Anon. 1888: 171), and clearly had the contacts in Britain that could have facilitated the importing of foxes. Thus, Thomas Chirnside had means, motive, and opportunity for importing foxes. Perhaps the Chirnsides protected the foxes liberated on this property, and forbade their numerous agricultural labourers to shoot them. Hunting of foxes on this property during the 1870s was not referred to by Ronald (1978). Of particular relevance is that the Chirnsides' biographer (Ronald 1978) provides much detail about open coursing (of hares) at the Werribee Park property during the 1870s, as well as deer hunting there by the Melbourne Hunt Club.

According to Ronald (1978: 81), two sons (aged 13 and 11 years) of Andrew Chirnside were enrolled in school in Scotland in 1866, where fox hunting was new to them. This may have led to the Chirnsides importing foxes more actively in the late 1860s and early 1870s. It may be relevant that Thomas Chirnside visited England in late 1874 (*The Argus* 18.6.1874: 5).

Another possibility is that the Chirnsides brought in foxes as a result of friendly rivalry with the Clarkes, another family that owned large estates in Victoria (Clarke 1995: 282). W.J. Clarke in particular became president of the Victoria Coursing Club, set up in 1873 to promote the coursing of hares (Clarke 1995: 60). Although the Chirnsides had already established a colony of deer, they became presidents of a rival coursing club established in 1876. They also completed in this year construction of a grandiose mansion (Werribee Park), which would have enhanced their status in society. Establishment of foxes for hunting about this time by the Chirnsides is thus plausible.

## Reason for release of foxes

It appears most logical that foxes were first brought to Victoria and released by those seeking sport, implying the previous existence of a pack of suitable hounds kept by some squatter. Indeed, Edward Wilson praised the invigorating effect of fox hunting on youth in that it 'tends to prevent them from sinking into mere dawdlers in an opera box or loungers in a café.' (*The Argus* 19.12.1860: 5). It also seems likely that fewer than 10 foxes (usually one to three) were imported on each occasion (records 61/1, 64/3, 64/4, 65/2, 68/1, 69/1, 69/2, 73/1, 77/1 in Table 1). These premises by themselves should account for the necessity for repeatedly importing and releasing foxes in the 1840s and 1860s, as it is highly improbable that so few animals would have survived, reproduced, and established a viable population. Threats to foxes at the time could easily have minimised the possibility of foxes surviving and increasing rapidly in population size. The main detrimental factors were probably the casual and recreational shooting by settlers and agricultural labourers for 'sport' (evidenced by early declines of kangaroos and emu [Westgarth 1848: 127; F. Fyans n.d. (?1854) in Bride 1898: 191]), predation by Aborigines until the 1850s (Bonwick 1858: 134; Emilsen 1999: 79), and ingestion of strychnine baits intended for dingoes, stray farm dogs, and feral dogs (Brown 1959: 350; Emilsen 1999: 62). Because shooting and hunting were popular pastimes in Victoria, the Acclimatisation Society had intentionally released introduced bird and mammal species far from human habitation (de Courcy 2003: 27-28).

The Zoological Society of Victoria and then its successor, the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria, were not directly responsible for the importation of foxes to Victoria (record 64/1, Table 1). The objectives of the Zoological Society, as stated in 1857, emphasised the acclimatisation of domestic and rare and uncommon species of animals (Lever 1992). The Acclimatisation Society, when formed in 1861, espoused the stocking of Victoria with 'the more important, useful and ornamental' animal species (Lever 1992: 109). The fox is not included in a list of mammal species introduced by this society between 1861 and 1867. Indeed, one journal published in London noted that 'it would be inconsistent with the real, or at least the legitimate objects of acclimatisation, to attempt to naturalise the fox in Australia "even for the purposes of sport"' (*The Argus* 14.9.1863: 5). In 1873, the Acclimatisation Society only claimed credit for the successful introduction of hares, 'deer of many kinds', pheasant, Angora goat, ostrich, British songbirds, and 'a variety of choice fish' (*The Argus* 24.4.1873: 6). However, the Society probably did contribute indirectly, as several foxes were introduced, apparently only once, in order to prevent game birds from becoming too numerous (record 61/1, Table 1).

## Factors enabling establishment of the fox

### *1. Previous establishment of the rabbit*

The decisive factor in securing establishment of the fox was very likely the great increase in rabbit populations from c. 1867 (Anon. 1868, 1935; Kiddle 1961; Brown 1971; Evans 1975; Suter 1999), nearly 10 years after their successful introduction into Victoria (Rolls 1969) The proliferation of the hare in the 1870s (Craig 1908; Evans 1975, Randell 1982) probably contributed as well, particularly since the hare ceased to be totally protected from 1873 (Inglis 1912). By 1880 the rabbit occurred in most of Victoria (Stodart and Parer 1988: 8) and presumably was very abundant then, evidenced by the need to legislate for the first time in Victoria in relation to the control of rabbits (Rabbit Suppression Act 1880). However, even though this Act mandated that rabbits were to be destroyed on unoccupied Crown lands, it is likely that this was not effective to the degree of excluding them as fox prey; thus foxes in the early 1880s would have found some refuges where poison was not distributed and rabbits were consequently plentiful.

Although rabbits were recorded between Geelong and Melbourne in 1865 (*The Argus* 5.10.1865: 5), the rabbit plague that derived from the introduction of rabbits to

Barwon Park in 1859 had not penetrated east of Geelong by 1869. At that time only the country west of Queenscliff and Ballarat was infested (*The Argus* 17.4.1869: 4-5). If foxes had been present in the Western district in the 1860s, it is difficult to understand why they had not increased in abundance there by 1870. In 1868 rabbits were 'becoming a nuisance' at You Yangs (*The Argus* 8.10.1868: 5) and by 1870 were plentiful on the north shore of Corio Bay (*The Argus* 4.11.1870: 7) and had infested Werribee district by 1875 (*The Argus* 21.4.1875: 5). Consequently, it would seem unlikely that wild foxes occurred in Werribee district before 1875.

*2. Growth of fox population exceeded control efforts*

An editorial in *The Weekly Times* (12.9.1885, reproduced in Jones 1994) speculated that 'it was anticipated that the love of [hunting foxes with hounds]…would have become sufficiently popular in this colony to have kept the foxes within reasonable bounds, but the love of sport has not grown with the growth of the vermin to be hunted.' In 1885 there were only two hunt clubs operating out of Melbourne (Appendix 1).

Foxes in Victoria showed early evidence of increased fecundity (records 80/7, 86/6, 86/17, 86/18, 90/24, 95/13, 97/10, 13/6 in Table 1), with 6-8 cubs per litter in Victoria in comparison with only 2 in Britain (Keartland 1920). However, this latter figure was disputed by Anon. (1921). Similarly, in the period 1901-1905, foxes were reported as having litters of up to eight or nine in New South Wales (*The Sydney Morning Herald* 21.8.1901: 10, 8.10.1901: 5, 22.8.1905: 7, 1.9.1905: 7). Another contributing factor may have been the localised eradication of the dingo (record 92/3), leading to mesopredator release involving the fox (Ritchie and Johnson 2009, Letnic *et al.* 2009). Consistent with this is the relatively slow colonisation by foxes of the mallee and Gippsland regions of Victoria in which dingoes were still common (Table 2).

*3. Rapid dispersal, occasionally human aided*

Empirical studies of dispersal rates of foxes in Australia demonstrate great variability (Saunders *et al.* 1995), perhaps related to the small numbers monitored. The mean distances dispersed in three studies were 3.5, 11, 15 and 43 km, with some individuals moving as far as 22 km (females) and 170 km (males). This range of averages fits the inferred historical rates of dispersal in different parts of Victoria (Fig. 1), e.g. c. 20 km/y from near Geelong to the South Australian border near Mt Gambier, and c. 30 km/y from near Geelong north-west to Wentworth, New South Wales. It is known from Western Australia, the border of which was reached by foxes in 1911-12, that some individuals quickly travelled farther westwards, reaching Moora in 1914 (a distance of 1250 km), Mount Magnet district in c. 1917 (1150 km), and Wagin in 1918 (1100 km) (*The West Australian* 12.6.1918: 6; Abbott 2008a). Comparatively, occupation of Gippsland, east of Melbourne, by foxes was slower (c. 8-14 km/y). Suggested reasons are the great extent of thickly vegetated forest, limited clearing, abundance of dingoes, and paucity of rabbits.

It seems plausible that some pastoralists transported and released foxes in parts of Victoria affected by high density populations of rabbits (record 73/2, Table 1; see also comment in 1868 noted in Rolls 1969: 318). However, this was probably only a minor factor in the spread of foxes. It seems that foxes were welcomed by some as likely to be helpful in checking the spread of the rabbit (records 68/4, 68/9 and 81/6 in Table 1). Some of the outlier records depicted in Fig. 1 may represent attempts to curb the spread of rabbits.

'Fox-hunting there is none', according to Twopeny (1883: 208), implying (incorrectly) that in about 1882 there was no hunting by hounds after wild foxes. Even by c. 1883-84 foxes were not always readily noticed, with one author writing as if this species were absent, with its place as an object of hunting with hounds being taken by the dingo (Anon. 1885: 463).

The numerous records of foxes chased from the late 1880s by hunt clubs during the season (June to September inclusive) need to be interpreted cautiously, as the published accounts do not always specify whether the fox was unbagged or feral. Moreover, not every meet was reported, thus precluding a quantitative analysis. From November 1889, Section 28 of the Vermin Destruction Act (1889) declared wilful release of foxes to be illegal. However, it would have been difficult to enforce this provision, as it is not difficult to locate a fox den, remove the cubs, and release them elsewhere (Also see *The Sydney Morning Herald* 11.8.1903: 7). This provision does not appear to have been enforced in respect of the use of bagged foxes by hunt clubs. It is impossible to ascertain whether early releases of bagged foxes signify that such foxes were collected locally or translocated from parts of Victoria infested with foxes. For example, several bagged foxes were liberated by the Hamilton Hunt Club in 1892 (records 92/12, 92/14, 92/28 in Table 1), but foxes were not recorded as wild in the district until 1894 (record 94/13 in Table 1; record 92/4 in Table 2).

## Establishment – summing up

Absence of records of foxes by itself does not of course constitute evidence of absence of the fox. Nonetheless, the pattern of spread of the fox that is depicted in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 is consistent with the absence of any comment by farmers about depredations of the fox on sheep or poultry in the Gippsland, Wimmera, Mallee and Murray regions of Victoria in the 1880s (Table 2). In the same period there are numerous complaints in the same regions about rabbits, locusts and *[Heliothis]* caterpillars impacting on crops, and wild dogs [dingoes] preying on sheep. This implies that isolated, early records (50/1, South Yarra, 1850s; 64/4, Dandenong Ranges, 1864; Hexham, 1880 [Rolls 1969]; 81/2, Mortlake, 1881; 84/20, Nirranda and Curdies Inlet; 85/21, Harrow, 1885; 88/6, Ryans Creek, 1888) should not be presumed to represent establishment of a population of foxes. Consistent with this interpretation is that it is well known that some individual foxes reached the west coast of Australia in 1914, many years before foxes established in south-west Western Australia (Abbott 2008a).

Particularly informative is the legal recognition of seven vermin districts in the mallee lands of Victoria (Mallee Pastoral Leases Act 1883, Land Act 1890, Part 2, Division 5). These were first defined in *Victoria Government Gazette* 68: 2822, 3239-40, 3511-2. From 1889, official records of funds paid for fox (and dingo) scalps in these districts serve to document the progressive incursion of the fox into the mallee region of western Victoria and the gradual suppression of the dingo (Tables 1, 2).

## Do hunt clubs merit criticism for their role in introducing foxes?

Eric Rolls, in his valuable book on imported pest animals in Australia, expressed some harsh comment and personal opinion about fox hunters, their dogs, and the reports of meets published in newspapers (Rolls 1969: 309, 313, 314). His remarks include 'I have no respect for hunters and their dogs', 'inordinately silly men following an inordinately silly sport', and 'thousands of words of drivel'. Rolls, who possessed extraordinary research skills but was not a scientist, wrote a popular book of very high literary standard which contained much scientific information. He was not constrained by the conventions of scientific writing, for the quotations cited above would not be admissible in a scientific journal.

The activities of hunt clubs should instead be judged by contemporary (Victorian era) values and not by late twentieth century and early twenty first century values. In 19th century England and Ireland, fox hunting was 'the sport of ladies and gentlemen', and together with coursing (the hunting of hares using dogs) was regarded as 'the most fashionable of British field-sports' (Anon. 1885: 463). Fox-hunting was regarded as having promoted the breeding of 'good horses' and developing some of the 'best qualities of mankind' (*The Argus* 19.8.1886: 5). Fox hunting was initiated in Victoria by men who had immigrated from England and Ireland. They were keen to transplant British institutions and cultural preferences to Australia, such as loyalty to the monarch, the dispensing of justice independent of politicians, a parliament supported by democratic elections, and sporting pastimes such as cricket and horse racing. So why not establish hunt clubs to chase deer, foxes and hares once kangaroos and dingoes retreated before settlement? From 1845 onwards these clubs proliferated in Victoria (Appendix 1). Sometimes imperial and colonial values reinforced each other, as in the periods 1873-78, 1890-94 and 1896-99 when the Governor of Victoria patronised and rode with hunt clubs based in Melbourne. Moreover, participation in and attendance at meets by the public was fashionable and popular, with many conducted in the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s near Ballarat and just outside the then suburban limits of Melbourne attracting hundreds of spectators.

The pursuit of deer, foxes and hares required different skills, as these species vary in their scent, the actions required to flush them from their coverts, and their behaviour when followed by hounds (*The Australasian* 18.8.1894: 281, 25.8.1894: 325, 1.9.1894: 368). Hunting with hounds thus demanded more than a casual acquaintance with the ecology and behaviour of hunted species, as well as advanced horse-riding and fence-jumping skills.

Like Rolls (1969), I have read thousands of words reporting the meets of the various hunt clubs conducted between 1868 and 1894. Many of these accounts are rich in detail about the starting place of the hunt, the route followed, obstacles encountered, the number of riders and spectators, and often the names of outstanding hounds, horses and riders. Like any other cultural activity, these reports include jargon (some of which is made comprehensible by the useful glossary published by Ronald (1970)), such as 'throw-off', 'gave tongue', 'cast', 'puss' and 'brush'. Most reports are unembellished narratives of no great length, with some authors only occasionally striving for literary effect. The example cited by Rolls (1969: 314-6) is less typical of the hundreds of accounts perused by me, and seems to demonstrate Rolls' determination to find fault with hunting with hounds and justify an *ex parte* position

It is evident from records 60/3, 63/1 and 64/4 in Table 1 that contemporary opposition to the introduction of foxes in Victoria could be strong, without explicit criticism of the existence or activities of hunt clubs. In particular, the journalist 'Bruni' [George Brown] contributed many paragraphs to the farming and pastoral section of *The Australasian* newspaper, based on his extensive travels in rural Victoria in the period 1880-94. He frequently drew attention to farmers' reports of the economic loss resulting from the spread and proliferation of foxes. The negligence of the Government in not prohibiting the importation and release of foxes was the main object of criticism (records 84/16, 84/17, 89/20, 91/2, 93/12 in Table 1). However, one report noted that Government officials did attempt to confiscate imported foxes (record 65/2 in Table 1). Legislation against the introduction of foxes had been first suggested in 1860 (record 60/2). Victoria did not follow the example of New Zealand, which prohibited the importation of foxes in 1865 (Protection of Certain Animals Act 1865). Record 69/1 in Table 1 may have resulted from this ban.

There was nothing unusual about the importing of foxes to Victoria compared to other British colonies. A fox escaped from a zoo in Sydney in 1835, but was recaptured (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 26.12.1835: 4). The Sydney hounds chased a fox in 1836 (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 16.4.1836: 2) and the Adelaide hounds killed a fox in 1845 (Daly 1986). In 1850 a ship left England bound for New Zealand with foxes on board (*The Argus* 22.3.1850: 4). One fox (the other one died) was brought to Hobart, Tasmania in 1860 (*The Argus* 24.9.1860: 5), and two foxes were dispatched from Britain for Hobart in 1862 (*The Argus* 23.6.1862: 6). Two foxes were landed at Rockhampton, Queensland in 1863 (*The Courier* 19.6.1863: 2).

In conclusion, the establishment and proliferation of hunt clubs in Victoria (and elsewhere in Australia) should be seen as an inevitable outcome of the transplanting of British cultural values to a new land that lacked the familiar animals of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. What would have been surprising is if foxes, hares and rabbits had not been introduced to Australia. Hunt clubs were responsible for the introduction of the fox, but this should be considered in the context of the time.

## Spread of the fox into South Australia and New South Wales

Foxes reached the western and northern borders of Victoria in c. 1894, as part of the outward expansion in geographical range from the 1870s release between Melbourne and Geelong (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). The diffusion into South Australia linked up with the earlier (1881-93) establishment in the south-east of that state. Adelaide district was reached by 1905 (an average rate of spread of 19 km/y), and depredations of lambs and poultry had become evident (records 05/8-05/12 in Table 1).

Using the conservative measure of the year in which > 100 scalps were first submitted for payment in each Pastures and Stock Protection district in New South Wales, Jarman (1986: 52) demonstrated that the fox had established as far north as the Queensland border by 1912-13. This represents an average rate of spread of c. 73 km/y. However, records in newspapers and Stock and Brands Branch annual reports indicate that the New South Wales/Queensland border was reached in 1907 (records 07/9 and 07/14 in Table 1). As in the Gippsland region of Victoria, the dense forests of the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales appear to have retarded the dispersal of foxes into coastal districts, sometimes by as much as 6-10 years (e.g. records 04/6, 05/15, 07/11, 09/7 and 09/8 in Table 1; Lunney and Leary 1988).

## Predation by the fox and the impact on prey species

In Britain, it was long known that foxes preyed on poultry, rabbits, lambs, other mammals, and birds (Editor 1891). In Victoria in 1868 and 1874, poultry was recorded as taken by foxes even when foxes were not established (records 68/2, 74/2 in Table 1). The first depredation by foxes of livestock (one lamb) was recorded in Victoria in 1878, followed in 1879 by the first record of bustards killed. Foxes were exempted from the operation of the Protection of Animals Act (1881): It was lawful to kill foxes provided no cruelty was involved. However, foxes were not explicitly identified as vermin until the Vermin Destruction Act (1889). Section 31 authorised the council of any municipality to pay a bonus for the destruction of foxes. A financial crisis in Victoria in 1893 led to the dismissal of all 68 rabbit inspectors on 30.6.1893 (*The Australasian* 8.4.1893: 626). This facilitated an increase in populations of rabbits in 1895 (*The Australasian* 18.1.1896: 101, 105; 1.2.1896: 201; 7.3.1896: 441; 28.3.1896: 581), so that by 1896 the Minister for Lands re-appointed 20 inspectors (*The Australasian* 25.1.1896: 153). Foxes should have responded from 1894 by increasing in abundance and extending their distribution, thereby intensifying predation of native fauna in the following years.

Depredation of native birds by foxes was commonly speculated about, observed or reported in the 1890s (records 91/26, 92/38, 93/20, 96/3, 96/21, 97/13, 98/17, 98/18, 99/4 in Table 1). It is noteworthy that no member of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria (formed in 1880) recorded in the highly informative journal of the Club *(Victorian Naturalist)* evidence of declines of native fauna due to the fox during the 1880s and 1890s. In addition, newspaper articles on the destruction of game (Batey 1883), papers on bird protection and the malleefowl at Nhill (Campbell 1885a, 1885b), a book on natural history (Macdonald nd = 1887), and an extended synthesis (Le Souef 1888) did not discuss the fox. A perceptive review (Lucas 1890) attributed the few declines of native mammals in Victoria to introduced rats, shooting, and livestock. A series of 82 newspaper articles on birds (Campbell 1893-1900) discussed the fox only once. Comment about the protection of native bird species instead emphasised excessive or indiscriminate shooting (Anon. 1893a, 1893b) and preservation of habitat (Anon. 1893c, Anon. 1894). Despite increasing comment about the impacts of vulpine predation on native fauna in Victoria in the early 1900s (records 00/1, 00/2, 00/3, 00/4, 01/3, 05/1, 05/4, 05/5 and 06/1 in Table 1), the books by Le Souef (nd=1907) and Lucas and Le Souëf (1909) did not include any relevant comment about particular species affected.

Relatively few comments were found on impacts of foxes on native mammals in Victoria, with the earliest in c. 1900 (records 00/4-00/7 in Table 1), 1904 (record 04/3), 1905 (record 05/4), 1909 (record 09/6) and no more until 1913 (records 13/1, 13/4). A brief synopsis by Spencer (1900) made no reference to any factors detrimental to native mammals. This sparseness of comment may reflect a lack of interest in native mammals by naturalists and zoologists in Victoria, evidenced by few observations and papers published in the *Victorian Naturalist* and in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria*, the two local journals. This may also reflect an inadequate baseline for understanding the original distribution of mammal species in Victoria, which was the only colony not collected in by the naturalists John Gould and John Gilbert (Gould 1845-1863). Despite the synthesis by Lucas (1897), the mammal fauna of only a few parts of Victoria was well documented in the 1800s (Blandowski 1855; Anon. 1861; Krefft 1865; Aboriginal names of mammals published by Dawson 1881 and Smyth 1878).

Based on an historical analysis of bounties paid on the fox and pest medium-sized marsupials in New South Wales (Short 1998), noticeable declines should have occurred in Victoria within 7-13 years of the establishment of the fox, i.e. from the late 1880s and early 1890s to the early to late 1900s according to the region. The establishment of the fox was the final, not the only, factor that led to the extinction in Victoria of six medium-sized ground-dwelling mammal species, namely *Dasyurus viverrinus, Bettongia gaimardi, B. penicillata, Lagorchestes leporides, Onychogalea fraenata* and *Thylogale billardierii*, as well as contracted distribution and reduced abundance of two species inhabiting dense vegetation (namely *Isoodon obesulus* and *Potorous tridactylus*, Murray *et al.* 2006).

The zoologist Frederick McCoy, who was appointed in 1854 to teach at the newly established University of Melbourne and in 1858 to direct the activities of the National Museum of Victoria (until his death in 1899), showed little interest in documenting the occurrence of mammal species in Victoria (McCoy 1867; McCoy 1885-90), as did his successor W.B. Spencer upon his arrival in Victoria in 1887. The curator of the zoological collection at the museum from 1899 to 1913, J.A. Kershaw, also published little on mammals. It is worthwhile noting that in the list of members of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, as at April 1904, mammalogy is not noted as an interest of any member, and this may have inhibited any recording of the impact of foxes on native mammals. For these reasons, non-scientific sources such as newspapers, diaries, letters and books written by visitors and settlers can contribute greatly to knowledge of original distributions of conspicuous mammal species. The value of newspapers for natural history information in Victoria has been highlighted by Balmford (1985) and Legg (2004).

In contrast, observations published about impacts on birds are extensive. It is evident that ornithology was a much more popular activity among amateurs in Victoria than mammalogy, commencing with publication of the first bird list in the 1840s (Cotton 1849). The *Victorian Naturalist* from its inception in 1884 included much information about the occurrence of bird species in various parts of Victoria, primarily based on excursions seeking specimens of birds, nests and eggs for personal collections. The formation in Victoria of an ornithological society in 1901 with the establishment of an associated publication outlet, and of a bird watching club in 1905, contrasts markedly with the formation in Australia of a mammalogy society decades later, in 1958. This society did not commence publication of a journal until 1974.

## Implications for controlling new introductions of foxes

This study has suggested that there may have been a short lag period (up to 5 years) from when foxes were released in Victoria to when they established and began to extend their distribution in Victoria. Foxes were illegally released in Tasmania in c. 1998 (Saunders *et al.* 2006). Although the authorities there (Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water 2008) have been vigilant in following up sightings and deploying 1080 poison, it is unlikely that the fox can now be eradicated from Tasmania for two main reasons. First, more than 10 years have elapsed since release, and records are widely dispersed. Second, the abundance of medium-sized mammals in Tasmania, evident to any visitor by the large amount of road-kill observed every morning, should nullify control effort by poison baiting.

Other large islands around the Australian coastline contribute importantly to the conservation of Australia's marsupials. Regular monitoring for the presence of foxes should therefore be conducted on Barrow, Bernier, Dorre, Kangaroo, King, Flinders and Cape Barren Islands, as early detection will facilitate extermination of foxes.

## Further research

For this paper I relied initially on *The Australasian* as the source of early records of foxes in Victoria, simply because of the convenience of bound volumes being held by the Battye Library in Perth, whereas *The Argus* and *The Age* are accessible in Perth only by way of microfilm of low legibility (with one image comprising 2 pages of a broadsheet newspaper). Subsequently *The Argus* was digitised as part of the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program, permitting rapid retrieval of records about the fox. There are undoubtedly many records of the first occurrence of foxes in districts in Victoria, as well as information about their impact on farm animals and native fauna, in the country newspapers published in Victoria, as well as the widely circulating rural newspaper *The Weekly Times*. Issues of newspapers published in Geelong between 1846 and 1880 and in Ballarat between 1868 and 1880 need to be searched to clarify the activities of local hunt clubs and for how long foxes persisted near Geelong and Ballarat. The information presented in this paper should assist anyone searching for local records of foxes in Victoria with the approximate year at which searching should commence. In this way, a more detailed picture of the local spread of the fox and its impact in Victoria will eventuate.

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## Appendix I

Hunt clubs (colloquially often termed 'hounds') known to be active in Victoria, 1845-1901, based largely on published reports of meets.

| Year | Active clubs/packs of hounds |
|---|---|
| 1845 | Clarke's (Mt Rouse), Cox's (Port Fairy), Cunningham's (Mt Mercer), Ferrers' (Wardy Yallock), Portland, Pyke's (Ballan), Sladen's (Corio), Werribee |
| 1846 | Corio, Ferrers', Mt Rouse, Port Fairy, Portland, Pyke's, Werribee |
| 1847 | Calvert's, Ferrers' |
| 1848 | Ferrers', 'Weiraby' |
| 1849 | Ferrers', 'Wierieby' |
| 1850 | Henderson's [Richmond] |
| 1851 | Henderson's |
| 1852 | Henderson's |
| 1853 | Henderson's, Melbourne |
| 1854 | Melbourne, Kilmore |
| 1855 | Bendigo, Fenton's, Melbourne |
| 1856 | Melbourne |
| 1857 | Gippsland, Melbourne |
| 1858 | Ballarat, Geelong, Melbourne, Warrnambool |
| 1859 | Geelong, Melbourne |
| 1860 | Ballarat, Geelong and Western District, Melbourne |
| 1861 | Ballarat, Geelong, Henderson's beagles & terriers, Melbourne |
| 1862 | Ballarat, Geelong and Western District, Henderson's beagles, Melbourne |
| 1863 | Ballarat, Caulfield, Geelong and Western District, Melbourne, Prahran beagles |
| 1864 | Ballarat, Hamilton, Melbourne |
| 1865 | Ballarat, Flemington, Kilmore, Melbourne |
| 1866 | Arthurs Seat, Ascot Vale, Flemington, Kilmany Park [Rosedale, Gippsland], Kilmore, Melbourne |
| 1867 | Flemington, Melbourne, Paywit [Geelong], Sebastopol [Rowlands', Buninyong], South Gippsland [?Taraville], St Leonard's [?Bellarine] |
| 1868 | Avoca, Ballarat [reformed], Flemington, Gippsland [wound up], Kilmore, Melbourne, Mount's hounds [Ballarat], Paywit [wound up], Sebastopol |
| 1869 | Ararat, Ballarat, Gippsland [?Stratford], Melbourne, Sebastopol |
| 1870 | Ballarat, Gippsland [Sale], Melbourne, Miller's beagles, Mordialloc, Sebastopol |
| 1871 | Ballarat, Flemington [reformed], Melbourne [reformed], Mordialloc [merged with Melbourne], Sebastopol |
| 1872 | Brownless' beagles, Flemington, Kewell [Wimmera], Melbourne, Miller's harriers [Findon Harriers, Kew], Rowlands' |
| 1873 | Ararat [wound up], Bendigo, Flemington, Kewell, Melbourne, Sebastopol, Villiers [Warrnambool], Werribee Harriers |
| 1874 | Bendigo, Dandenong, Flemington, Kewell, Melbourne, Miller's harriers, Sebastopol [wound up], Villiers, Werribee Harriers, Wilson's [Ballarat] |
| 1875 | Chirnside's harriers [Werribee Harriers], Colac [wound up], Dandenong, Findon Harriers, Melbourne, Villiers |
| 1876 | Findon Harriers, Hector & Norman Wilson's [Vectis, Wimmera; incorporating Avoca Beagles and Flemington Hounds], Melbourne, Werribee Harriers |
| 1877 | Bendigo, Findon Harriers, Melbourne, Werribee Harriers |
| 1878 | Broughton's [Mordialloc], Findon Harriers, Melbourne, Werribee Harriers |
| 1879 | Broughton's, Colac, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1880 | Broughton's, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1881 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1882 | Ballarat, Boort, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1883 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1884 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |

## APPENDIX 1

| Year | Active clubs/packs of hounds |
|---|---|
| 1885 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1886 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1887 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne |
| 1888 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne, Oaklands Beagles |
| 1889 | Ballarat, Findon Harriers, Melbourne, Oaklands |
| 1890 | Ballarat, Flemington, Melbourne, Oaklands, Sandhurst [Bendigo] |
| 1891 | Ballarat, Benalla, Castlemaine, Findon Harriers, Melbourne, Oaklands, Sandhurst |
| 1892 | Ballarat, Benalla, Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Melbourne, Oaklands |
| 1893 | Ballarat, Burwood, Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Melbourne, Oaklands |
| 1894 | Ballarat, Burwood, Findon Harriers, Gippsland, Hamilton, Melbourne, Oaklands, Woodend |
| 1895 | Ballarat, Burwood, Findon Harriers, Gippsland, Hamilton, Melbourne, Oaklands, Woodend |
| 1896 | Bendigo, Burwood, Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Melbourne, Nirranda, Oaklands, Terang |
| 1897 | Burwood, Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Kilmore, Melbourne, Oaklands, Staughton's [Keayang], Terang, Woodend |
| 1898 | Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Kilmore, Melbourne, Oaklands, Terang, Warrnambool |
| 1899 | Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Kilmore, Melbourne, Oaklands, Terang, Warrnambool, Woodend |
| 1900 | Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Kilmore, Lilydale & Yarra Glen, Melbourne, Oaklands, Terang, Warrnambool |
| 1901 | Findon Harriers, Hamilton, Kilmore, Yarra Glen & Lilydale, Melbourne, Oaklands, Terang |